

Question on Notice

No. 6

Asked on Tuesday 4 February 2020

MRS D FRECKLINGTON ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON M BAILEY)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the 24 recommendations made in the Forde Inquiry handed down in December 2018—

Will the Minister outline (a) the status, (b) whether each recommendation is complete or not yet complete and (c) a timeframe of delivery, (reported separately for each recommendation)?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Nanango for the question.

As the Forde Inquiry laid out in detail, the New Generation Rollingstock (NGR) trains were ordered by the Newman Government (in which the Member for Nanango was an Assistant Minister to then Premier Newman) and, as the report outlines “the Commission was advised that the critical decision to reduce the number of toilets on the NGR train, as well as the decision to remove the intermediate guard cab, was driven by the former Director-General of the Department of Transport and Main Roads, Mr Michael Caltabiano.”

This was the critical decision by the Newman Government which rendered the NGR trains noncompliant with the federal *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*.

On 23 July 2018, the Honourable Anastacia Palaszczuk MP, Premier and Minister for Trade announced an inquiry into the procurement of the NGR trains and their failure to comply with disability laws.

Commissioner Michael Forde presented his final report on 3 December 2018, making 24 recommendations to address the issues that were identified during the course of the inquiry, all of which have been accepted for implementation by the Palaszczuk Government. Commissioner Forde noted that, in 2018, there had been good consultation to understand the issues and progress rectification work. The modifications and approach taken are consistent with the relevant recommendations from Commissioner Forde’s report.

Implementation of recommendations made in the *New Generation Rollingstock Train Commission of Inquiry* are the responsibility of a number of Queensland Government agencies, including the Department of Transport and Main Roads, Queensland Treasury, the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, the Department of Housing and Public Works and the Citytrain Response Unit.

As at 5 March 2020, all recommendations have been implemented except for recommendation 8, which is in progress and due for completion by 30 June 2020. The 23 completed recommendations were finalised between 31 July 2019 and 28 February 2020.