



Minister for Transport and Main Roads Minister for Digital Services

Our ref: PET 50493
Your ref: A1147854

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15 September 2023

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petition 3906-23, lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Mr Stephen Bennett MP, Member for Burnett on 22 August 2023 about restoration of tilt train services between Bundaberg, Maryborough, Hervey Bay and Brisbane.

Queensland Rail's North Coast line train timetable incorporating the Rockhampton and Bundaberg Tilt Train services temporarily changed on 17 July 2023. This change is to enable essential, statutory maintenance works to be undertaken on the Bundaberg Tilt Train to ensure continued safety and reliability. Safety is Queensland Rail's number one priority.

The works require the Bundaberg Tilt Trains to be offline for up to 14 months to allow for intensive maintenance to the traction and braking systems, carriage couplings and other mechanical improvements.

Queensland Rail understands that customers regularly travel from Bundaberg to Brisbane for medical appointments. As such, there are daily wheelchair accessible services that depart Bundaberg at 4.55 am and depart Brisbane at 4.55 pm each weekday, except on Wednesdays. Hospital and Health Services (HHSs) have been provided a copy of the new timetable, and I understand HHS Patient Travel Offices will be working with patients to manage medical bookings, as required.

To ensure the operational fleet is maintained safely and to a high standard of cleanliness, it was not possible to achieve a daily return service on Wednesday. However, customers can be assured that all stops previously serviced by the Bundaberg Tilt Trains are being covered by the Rockhampton Tilt Trains, *Spirit of Queensland* and *Spirit of the Outback*. In particular, the timetable has been supplemented by two additional *Spirit of Queensland* services, with no additional costs incurred. There are also private bus operators that service the Bundaberg to Brisbane route that are available daily for customers.

Queensland Rail has proactively engaged with the public about these changes, including with the local community in Bundaberg.

Queensland Rail is thankful for the community's patience and understanding as they undertake these essential safety works.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark Bailey', with a long, sweeping tail extending downwards and to the right.

MARK BAILEY MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads
Minister for Digital Services