



Speech by

Hon. STEVE BREDHAUER

MEMBER FOR COOK

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

South-east Busway

Hon. S. D. BREDHAUER (Cook—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads) (10.23 a.m.), by leave: Over the past two weeks Queensland has played an important role in Australia's Olympic success, with Brisbane hosting the preliminary rounds and a quarterfinal match of the Olympic football tournament. Seven games were held at the Brisbane Cricket Ground at Woolloongabba from 13 to 23 September 2000. There is little doubt that it was very successful. Crowds ranged in size from 25,000 to 37,000 and averaged 30,000 per game.

Public transport played a major role in the success of the tournament, with an estimated 52% of the attendees at the football travelling by public transport. This share increased to 55% for the quarterfinal match between Brazil and eventual gold medal winners Cameroon. Queensland Rail, Queensland Transport and Brisbane Transport provided integrated services to the football patrons, with the price included in the cost of the Olympic ticket. The rail/bus interchanges at Vulture Street/South Bank and Roma Street Railway Station were used to advantage.

The new south-east busway was used between the city and Woolloongabba, and the bus operators and drivers were very pleased with the time savings made through using the busway and bypassing the congested city streets. Typical trip times observed for buses using the busway were: Vulture Street Railway Station to Woolloongabba, three minutes; Queen Street bus station to Woolloongabba, seven minutes; and Roma Street Railway Station to Woolloongabba, 10 minutes. Patronage splits for the average crowd were equally impressive: Vulture Street, 2,400 people; Queen Street, 3,200 people; and Roma Street, 3,100 people. For the average crowd, about 8,700 people used the busway.

An indication of the public's confidence in the new busway was given at the south-east busway open day held on 27 August 2000. Tens of thousands of Queenslanders participated in the open day, which provided a unique opportunity for the people of south-east Queensland to walk a distance of 2.7 kilometres along the busway, from Melbourne Street to Woolloongabba. My departmental officers and I were delighted with the enthusiastic public response to the invitation to view at first hand this magnificent new asset. The event was a major success, with crowd estimates indicating that around 50,000 people walked the section. In addition, \$14,000 was raised through gold coin donations on the day. This money will be used to benefit charities throughout South Brisbane and Woolloongabba.

After speaking to many people who walked the 2.7 kilometre section between the Convention Centre and the new Woolloongabba busway station, I am confident that most people now understand that the busway will play a vital role in making Brisbane's public transport system better than ever. I am equally confident that they are aware that Brisbane can now boast the most sophisticated busway in the world and that it is further proof that Queensland is the smart State.

The open day was staffed by hundreds of volunteers, including staff from Queensland Transport and Main Roads and Rotary clubs from within the project corridor, as well as Olympic football volunteers. There was also strong representation from contractors responsible for civil construction: Leighton, Thiess, BMD Green, and Bielby and Walter Construction, who are currently constructing state-of-the-art busway stations at the Queensland Cultural Centre, South Bank, the Mater Hill Hospital and Woolloongabba.

The city to Woolloongabba section of the busway will be opened to permanent scheduled services in both directions late in October 2000, by which time patrons will have access to stations at the Cultural Centre, South Bank, Mater Hill and Woolloongabba. As of that date, up to 31 Brisbane Transport and nine National Bus Lines routes will travel on this completed section of the south-east busway.

I take this opportunity to publicly thank all those involved with the open day and the transport arrangements put in place for the Olympic football tournament. The fact that the Government and contractors were able to fast-track completion of this section of the busway nine months ahead of schedule clearly demonstrates the cooperative relationship that exists between the Government and private sector in Queensland.

On behalf of the Government I acknowledge and congratulate Queensland Transport staff and contractors such as Leighton, Thiess, Peabody and Walter Construction for their efforts in meeting the tight schedule imposed by the Olympics. I also recognise the close levels of cooperation between the Brisbane City Council, Brisbane Transport, Queensland Transport and Queensland Rail in delivering integrated transport services for Olympic patrons. This high level of cooperation augers well for future cooperative activities, such as the CityTrans joint venture currently under way between Queensland Rail and Brisbane Transport.

The remaining portion of the south-east busway from Woolloongabba to Eight Mile Plains is on track for completion in mid 2001. Given recent experiences, there is little doubt that this critical piece of transport infrastructure will be instrumental in achieving the Beattie Government's vision for a world-class public transport system for south-east Queensland.
