



Speech by

Hon. STEVE BREDHAUER

MEMBER FOR COOK

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
CityTrans Dawn Express Service

Hon. S. D. BREDHAUER (Cook—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads) (9.58 a.m.), by leave: Earlier this year, the Lord Mayor and I launched a collaborative venture between Queensland Rail and Brisbane Transport known as CityTrans. The key objective of CityTrans, which is directly in line with the Beattie Labor Government's commitment to increasing public transport patronage, is to establish and implement integrated transport services. Last month I was pleased to announce the commencement of Stage 1 CityTrans services across a range of rail and bus routes throughout Brisbane.

Today, I would like to inform the House about a new CityTrans initiative that will commence operation within the next few weeks. Brisbane commuters will have the opportunity to use public transport from the city after midnight during the Christmas period under a trial Dawn Express service. In previous years, getting a taxi home from the Brisbane central business district during the Christmas period had been difficult at times, particularly after midnight.

From 8 to 23 December 2000 additional trains and buses will work with taxis to transport people from the city on Friday and Saturday nights between midnight and 4 o'clock, every 30 minutes. As we approach the busy Christmas period, the Dawn Express service will allow passengers to safely travel home from the city to their door without waiting in lengthy queues for extended periods of time.

These services will cover almost all areas within the Brisbane City boundaries through nine major suburban interchanges. Buses will be integrated with taxis at Chermside, Carindale, Garden City and Indooroopilly Shopping Centres. Special rail services will also be integrated with taxis at Northgate, Manly, Kuraby, Corinda and Mitchelton rail stations. This will provide the travelling public with the option of a bus or rail service to a local interchange, transferring to a taxi for a shorter and cheaper journey to their door.

Taxi services will continue to operate from the five major ranks in the CBD. In addition, a collector bus service will provide transport from various locations around the CBD to the bus departure point in Adelaide Street and the rail departure point at Central Station. Roma Street and Brunswick Street rail stations will also remain open after midnight to collect passengers. It is anticipated that the average travel time from the city to suburban interchanges will be about 20 minutes. As a further commitment to ensuring public transport safety, security officers will be on services and at city and suburban interchanges. So we will ensure that we have security officers on each of the bus and train services and at city and suburban interchanges.

The dawn express service demonstrates what can be achieved through cooperation between State Government, local governments and industry working together to make public transport an attractive option for commuters. I wish to acknowledge the role of CityTrans in working with Queensland Transport, Queensland Rail, the taxi industry and Brisbane Transport to develop the dawn express service.

Finally, yesterday in the House I touched on the crippling effect that the GST is having on the bus industry in Queensland. In recognition of the devastating effect that Federal coalition taxation policy is having on public transport, I am pleased to announce that the State Government has come good with a package to spend an additional \$6.5m this financial year to subsidise school bus operators and private urban bus operators.

School bus operators contracted directly to the department will receive an average 9.5% increase in their contract rates backdated to 30 October 2000. In a full year, additional Government funding for the bus industry will amount to \$10.5m. This funding has been much sought after by the bus industry and it gives me pleasure to be able to say that the Beattie Government has once again delivered both to the bus industry and public transport users in Queensland.
