



Speech by

Hon. STEVE BREDHAUER

MEMBER FOR COOK

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Public Transport

Hon. S. D. BREDHAUER (Cook—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads) (10.03 a.m.), by leave: This week and next heralds the beginning of a public transport revolution for Queensland. The Premier and I officially commissioned the state government's new \$350 million South East Busway last weekend. The busway, however, is just one of a number of exciting new public transport initiatives in south-east Queensland. I am pleased to inform the House that from Monday, 7 May Queensland Rail will provide a record number of new services for commuters. QR will operate more than 5,650 services a week—an increase of 700 above current figures.

Citytrain carries 145,000 passengers on a typical working day and patronage is growing at 4.7 per cent a year. There will be extra services on the Caboolture, Cleveland and Ipswich lines and to and from the Sunshine Coast. I inform the House of some of the main changes to the new timetable. In Caboolture, there will be a new morning peak service and two additional Petrie to Roma Street all-station trains. On the Sunshine Coast, there will be a morning and afternoon peak service with an express offering reduced travel times. There will also be an extra Friday night service and extra trains on Saturday and Sunday. Most Gold Coast trains will now extend to the Brisbane Airport, with all trains stopping at South Bank Station. There will be an extra weekday service for Cleveland, Ipswich and Rosewood.

The new timetables have now been distributed and recycling points have been established at key stations where commuters can obtain a copy of the new timetables and dispose of the old ones. New timetable booklets will be available from stations this week. Commuters can also contact TRANSINFO on 13 12 30. Commencement on these significant service improvements will be accompanied by the start of the first Airtrain services to Brisbane Airport. This week I launched a major advertising campaign for Airtrain, the new rail service that will link travellers to the Brisbane Airport, Brisbane and the Gold Coast. Airtrain will start services next Monday. I am confident the new services will have a significant and positive impact on public transport in south-east Queensland. Unlike some members opposite who seek to question this important initiative even before the services begin, the Beattie government is proud to be associated with Airtrain.

The marketing campaign for Airtrain will reach travellers within Australia through radio and television advertising and around the world through the Internet. Generally, two services an hour will continue on to QR's Gold Coast stations. Airtrain is also offering a competitive fare structure for airport workers. They can buy a special \$10 weekly ticket on top of their normal QR weekly fare between their local QR station and the city, or they can buy a monthly ticket for \$40. When one considers that a one-way trip to the airport can cost up to \$40 in some instances, this special fare structure is very worker friendly. I commend Airtrain on its initiative and look forward to its long and healthy association with public transport in Queensland.

There have been broader economic advantages for Brisbane and south-east Queensland from Airtrain with girders, piles and concrete coming from the Brisbane area, ballast from west of Ipswich at Mount Marrow, extra trains built at Maryborough and sleepers manufactured in Rockhampton. The Airtrain project has created hundreds of jobs for Queenslanders throughout the design and construction phase, and there will be further jobs throughout its operations. The busway, Airtrain and 700 additional QR services introduced by the Beattie Labor government are reinforcing Queensland as the Smart State.