



Speech by

Hon. STEVE BREDHAUER

MEMBER FOR COOK

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Goodwill Games

Hon. S. D. BREDHAUER (Cook—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads) (10.02 a.m.), by leave: During the 2001 Goodwill Games, the people of south-east Queensland and visitors alike embraced public transport as the best way to get to and from games events. More than 40 per cent of ticket holders used Brisbane Transport buses and Queensland Rail systems. I am very pleased to table in the House patronage figures for the 12 days of Goodwill Games competition and I note that, at its peak, over 51 per cent of people travelling to the games on Friday, 7 September used public transport. More than a quarter of a million people attended ticketed events and, of those, more than 113,000 people took advantage of free bus and rail transport. Moving this number of people during the 12 days of competition represented an enormous challenge for both QR and Brisbane Transport. The detailed joint planning and cooperation between the two organisations leading up to the games paid off with a highly successful integrated public transport plan in place. The new South East Busway played a prominent role and, together with the new bus/rail interchange facilities at Buranda and South Bank stations, was instrumental in ensuring seamless connections between bus and rail services.

A year ago on Thursday, on 13 September 2000, the first stage of the South East Busway was open for business. It carried commuters to another international sporting event, the Olympic soccer held at the Gabba. The South East Busway has indeed heralded the start of an exciting new era in public transport. It is one of the most important public transport projects ever built by the state government and follows five years of planning, community consultation and construction. Recently, Queensland Transport, Theiss Pty Ltd and SMEC Australia Pty Ltd were awarded an excellence award in the project management category at this year's 2001 Engineering Excellence Awards.

Since the South East Busway began operations on 30 April this year, there has been a 30 per cent increase in patronage on core busway services. On average, more than 12,000 passengers use the South East Busway every week. That is a quarter of a million—250,000—new passengers since it began operations. The South East Busway has changed the face of public transport in south-east Queensland. The Beattie government has created one of the most modern and efficient public transport systems in the world. Only last week, Queensland Transport was contacted by New Zealand's television station TV1 regarding the South East Busway. The busway and our integration of different modes of transport in particular were identified as future aims for Auckland.

I said at the outset that when people experience the efficiency, comfort and time savings of travel on the busway, public transport patronage will increase significantly. And it has, beyond our expectations. The South East Busway represents more than a multimillion-dollar investment in infrastructure; it is an investment in the people who live and work in south-east Queensland—young people and families—who rely on a safe, secure and efficient public transport system.
