



Speech by

DESLEY SCOTT

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

Hansard 18 April 2002

COMMUNITY RENEWAL REFERENCE GROUPS

Mrs DESLEY SCOTT (Woodridge—ALP) (7.24 p.m.): Tonight I wish to pay tribute to the members of the Community Renewal Reference Groups of Woodridge, Kingston and Loganlea and, in particular, to the smaller committee responsible for steering the community bus project to its final launch three weeks ago. Eighteen months ago, the first plans for this superb project were put in place, resulting in the Blue Dash Shuttle, our very own community bus service. Had the members of this committee any inkling of the huge challenge they faced and the very large commitment of their personal time, possibly they would have wondered if it was not too difficult a task. However, I am very glad to report that my community does not shrink from difficult tasks, and they are now being showered with accolades for such an innovative project.

As in many regional centres close to the capital city, our bus service was very efficient if one wanted to travel to the Brisbane CBD for work each day. But it did not quite meet the mark for community members who just wanted to access shops, medical centres, council libraries, et cetera in the local area. So, when the community action plan was devised, transport was very high on the agenda. Negotiating the transport regulations, the requirements of the local commercial bus operator, dealing with routes and time tabling and, most of all, locating three suitable buses provided an almost insurmountable challenge.

The buses are totally unique—small and manoeuvrable with a capacity of 27 to negotiate residential streets. The floor lowers and a ramp can accommodate wheelchairs, strollers and the like. They are attractively signed with the Community Renewal logo and have become a mobile advertisement for the wonderful things happening in Logan City.

These three midi buses now traverse six loops at hourly intervals and run on a hail and ride format. Fares have been kept to a minimum \$1.50 per ride for pensioners, being subsidised by Community Renewal over an 18-month trial period. If the level of patronage in these first few weeks continues, they will surely become a success story for others to copy and we hope will become a permanent fixture in Logan.

The routes have been outlined by a bright blue line painted along the side of the road, and this has attracted huge interest and resulted in much publicity, even from *Brisbane Extra*. I thank the chairman, councillor Russell Lutton, co-chairman, Eric Neilsen, Noel and Gail Shaw, Trisch Muller, Greg Pearson, Bill Croft from Logan City Council, Rob Jones and Brian Dwyer from Queensland Transport, Reg and Yvonne Clark from Logan City Bus Service, Judy Higgins from Community Renewal, and our Minister, Hon. Robert Swarten, who also was personally involved at various times throughout the project.

As we neared the launch, various other community members assisted in manning the information shopfront. We must also thank the Department of Transport and Community Renewal for assistance with publicity, printing and delivery of fliers and timetables, and so many other tasks. This is an absolute triumph for this community and demonstrates what can be accomplished with hard work and effort when using partnerships, in this case between Community Renewal, Queensland Transport, our community members, Logan City Council and our local bus company. We are making Logan City an even better place to live and a very family friendly place.
