



Speech by

DIANNE REILLY

MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA

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HINTERLINK

Mrs REILLY (Mudgeeraba—ALP) (10.27 a.m.): The Hinterlink is here. Last Monday I launched a new community bus service for the Gold Coast hinterland. The Hinterlink is an innovative response to the problem of providing public transport in outlying suburbs along the fringes of residential developments. I have been working on this issue for almost two years since it was first brought to my attention that public transport was lacking on the western side of the Pacific Highway. I have surveyed over 2,000 residents. I met with community groups and constituents and I undertook extensive research to identify demand and to seek solutions. Local operator Surfside Buslines responded quickly and willingly to the problem when provided with the research and the evidence. They are to be congratulated for their initiative and commitment. CEO Luke Grey and operations manager David Bischara have come up with a brilliant system—a small, dedicated 24-seat transporter which travels four routes through Mudgeeraba, Tallai and Worongary six days a week. Morning services are scheduled and are on a hail and ride basis and link travellers to the existing route 2 service, which will then get them out to the wider Gold Coast or even on to the Brisbane train. In the afternoon the Hinterlink meets the route 2 bus and returns residents almost to their door—and all for \$1.50 a trip. Two dedicated bus drivers will ensure consistency and provide a caring and attentive service for the residents.

The Hinterlink is a pilot program which, if successful, Surfside hope to repeat in other parts of the Gold Coast. Members might like to pay attention, because it could even be a blueprint for all the other operators in Queensland to address the need for services in outlying suburbs and hinterland areas. The service has been received very well. The launch went very well. The Hinterlink is becoming a popular and recognisable feature of the landscape. It has great patronage. But the words of local resident Brett Marr, a spritely older gent who no longer drives, best sums up the service. He said on the day that he was a prisoner in his own home and was trapped until the Hinterlink came along.

Time expired.