



Speech by

**Hon. Paul Lucas**

**MEMBER FOR LYTTON**

Hansard Tuesday, 17 August 2004

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## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **TransLink**

**Hon. P.T. LUCAS** (Lytton—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.17 a.m.): I wish to inform the House of the successful introduction of the TransLink integrated ticketing system on 1 July. TransLink has proven a great success in its early phase and has surpassed all expectations both in terms of revenue dollars and patronage. TransLink represents a new era in public transport. South-east Queensland residents are voting with their feet. Patronage for the first month of operation was 10.45 million, a 10 per cent increase on the same period last year, and this is without the data for Surfside buses on the Gold Coast which we are currently awaiting. On-board ticket sales revenue for rail, bus and ferry services in July was \$13.6 million, which is six per cent above budget and 10 per cent better than for the same period last year.

Bus services in outlying urban areas reported the most impressive increases in revenue as more passengers embraced the reduced fares. For example, revenue from bus ticket sales in Morayfield has doubled; in Park Ridge it is up 55 per cent; and in Caboolture it has jumped 46 per cent. But it does not stop there. Revenue from rail ticket sales is up 14 per cent. This means that we will be able to improve the public transport network. More commuters are choosing public transport because TransLink has made it easier and cheaper for them to go from one mode of transport to another.

Reduced fares integrated journeys were expected to mean reduced revenue, but I am delighted to say that this has been offset by increased patronage on all rail, bus and ferry services. About 60 per cent of travellers get a saving under the new fares for integrated journeys. The affordability and convenience is also appealing to pensioners and seniors. Bus operators report that increasing numbers are taking advantage of the reduced fares. Many are now travelling in off-peak times to visit shopping centres, clubs and other facilities.

I would like to thank those people who have already written with their positive feedback since the advent of integrated ticketing and offering suggestions about the nature of future expansions to the network. I welcome feedback—positive or negative—because it is very important for our continued development. The Beattie government will continue to deliver better public transport infrastructure and services across south-east Queensland as part of the 10-year TransLink network plan. This is about providing convenient, accessible and reliable public transport that encourages people to leave their cars at home to reduce traffic congestion and pollution. We will soon be going to residents to ask them what they want. This is a key part of our commitment to delivering responsive government. Public consultation on the draft network plan is expected to commence shortly.

A range of other activities are planned to encourage members of the public and key stakeholders to comment on the draft. So as they say, watch this space. Stage 2 of integrated ticketing will involve tag-on, tag-off smart cards, which will enable us to pinpoint people's travel needs and tailor future services to best meet those needs. A pilot of stage 2 will commence next year.