



Speech by

Hon. Paul Lucas

MEMBER FOR LYTTON

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

South-East Queensland Travel Survey

Hon. P.T. LUCAS (Lytton—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.03 a.m.): Next week selected households on the Gold and Sunshine coasts will be asked to participate in the South-East Queensland Travel Survey. This important survey will be done in stages over eight weeks from October to December and will involve 5,500 households randomly selected across both coastal regions. We have already surveyed 6,500 households this year in south-east Queensland including Brisbane, Caboolture, Redcliffe, Pine Rivers, Ipswich, Logan and Redlands. Participants are assigned a specific week day and asked to detail their travel for 24 hours in the diary provided, which I now table.

The diaries and survey forms gather vital data about people's daily travel patterns such as why they need to travel, where they go, how long each trip takes them and whether they prefer to travel by car, bus, train, ferry or walk. We are not just focusing on public transport; we are looking at road issues as well. Responses are confidential and respondents cannot be identified. The results are crucial to help this government plan south-east Queensland's future transport needs in partnership with local councils, industry and other key stakeholders.

The last surveys of this type were done more than 10 years ago. We are all aware of the 'sea change phenomenon' in south-east Queensland and the impact it is having on essential services and infrastructure. By 2026, the Sunshine Coast's population is expected to double to almost half a million people while the Gold Coast will grow from 400,000 to more than 750,000 people.

The draft south-east Queensland regional plan is being finalised and the Deputy Premier and Treasurer will release it for public comment in late October. This plan will help us create the framework to manage such growth in a sustainable way while meeting the needs of the extra one million people who will be living here in 20 years. There is no doubt that the extra one million people will create substantial extra demand on our roads and public transport systems and infrastructure. That is why we need up-to-date and accurate information about south-east Queensland residents' travel behaviour. Understanding how and why people travel throughout south-east Queensland each day is critical to ensuring that we can meet future transport demands.

Ultimately, we are planning to provide south-east Queensland with an integrated transport system that supports efficient travel. The Beattie government has already made an excellent start to doing that under TransLink, which south-east Queensland residents have embraced since its 1 July introduction. An extra 10.7 per cent or 2.34 million passengers caught public transport in the first two months. We will have spent about \$1 million to gather and evaluate this critical data when the project finishes early 2005. This is an investment in the future, an investment in improving infrastructure and transport systems worth billions of dollars.

On the Sunshine Coast, the Beattie government is spending \$635 million over the next five years on roads. That is a 129 per cent increase or an extra \$358 million. I know that the shadow minister is

delighted with our commitment there. We are spending a further \$158 million on public transport infrastructure over four years.

On the Gold Coast—and no doubt the member for Robina is delighted about this—we are spending \$543 million on roads over the next five years and \$183 million on public transport infrastructure over four years. The Gold and Sunshine coasts travel surveys are therefore essential. I urge those residents to embrace this survey if asked, and take time in filling out the form and diary which will help us provide them better services and facilities in coming years.