



Speech by

Hon. Paul Lucas

MEMBER FOR LYTTON

Hansard Wednesday, 23 March 2005

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

TransLink

Hon. PT LUCAS (Lytton—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.26 am): Further to the Premier's statement I will inform honourable members how south-east Queenslanders have already embraced TransLink and the benefits that integrated ticketing has delivered. Since its introduction only nine months ago, TransLink has integrated south-east Queensland public transport operations, including rail, bus and Brisbane City Council ferry services. We now have a single public transport network from Noosa to Coolangatta and west to Helidon. This is the largest integrated public transport network in the world, I might add.

Transport planning is a key priority for the Beattie government and the introduction of integrated ticketing marked a giant leap towards smart, flexible and convenient public transport. One major benefit TransLink has delivered is a 50 per cent discount on public transport for all secondary and tertiary students. South-east Queenslanders are embracing integrated ticketing, with an extra 5.5 million passengers, an increase of 6.9 per cent, on board since the introduction of TransLink. This equates to more than 86 million passenger journeys made on TransLink services throughout south-east Queensland between July 2004 and February 2005.

For example—this is where it is really amazing—in this period bus patronage has increased on the Sunshine Coast by 27 per cent, in Ipswich by 59 per cent, in Logan by 26 per cent and on the Gold Coast by 16 per cent. As the Premier informed the House this morning, we will be spending \$335 million over the next decade to boost public transport services in south-east Queensland under the 10-year draft TransLink Network Plan. That includes \$64 million in the next three years on new services and \$38.8 million yearly to maintain those services over the following seven years.

The draft TransLink Network Plan also includes other infrastructure and service upgrades scheduled for completion by 2008 as well as longer term strategies up to 2014. The \$1.4 billion for new infrastructure in the next four years includes: duplicating the rail track from Mitchelton to Keperra on the Ferny Grove line; constructing a third rail track from Salisbury to Kuraby, which will advantage the Gold Coast as well; purchasing 24 new three-carriage trains to increase the frequency of services across the network; and extending the inner northern busway from Countess Street to the Queen Street bus station. What capital city in the world has busways from its main southern and northern arteries into a station under its main street! Another project is constructing a new bus station under King George Square and two extra stations on the existing busway.

As the Premier and I announced only last week, we will begin extending the rail line from Robina south—first to Reedy Creek and eventually all the way to Coolangatta. I thank the member for Robina for his strong support of the announcement. Members in south-east Queensland should look out for the TransLink brochure in their local community newspapers from 4 April. I encourage everyone to have a say to make our public transport system even better.