



Speech by

## Fiona Simpson

**MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE**

Hansard Wednesday, 27 October 2010

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### TILT TRAINS; GO CARD

**Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (11.40 am): I welcome the news about the new tilt train because that is positive for Queensland. I call on the government to go a step further, though, so that the tilt train can actually run at tilt train speeds. The government canned the rail upgrade north of Caboolture that was supposed to take out those steam train speeds where trains can go only about 50 kilometres an hour. The Beerburrum-Landsborough upgrade was due to be completed within two years, but after the election this government canned that. It did not put out a press release, but now the upgrade that would take out these steam train speeds has been canned and is not due in its program for another 10 years. The smart thing to do is ensure that those new tilt trains actually can do tilt train speeds and that Queensland gets a real rail service, not just lip-service from the government.

I want to address another issue. It is 45 business days before the new go card light system is supposed to come into effect when this government wipes out paper tickets for commuters in Queensland. We are still waiting for the new system. Given the fact that earlier this year the government hiked up the price of fares to make it so expensive for paper ticket users—put fares up by 40 per cent over and above the previous fares—we are now worried about what is going to happen when the new system is supposed to roll out in only 45 business days. We do not want to see the same debacle that happened to commuters when they found that they could not even buy a go card in many parts of South-East Queensland if they wanted to use one, and still the government has not recognised the problems in that rollout and the forced crossover to go cards with a hike in the cost of paper tickets. There are only 45 business days to go before this government wipes out the paper ticket in Queensland. That will have an impact, and it is time we saw the detail about how commuters and those less regular users of public transport are going to be helped. Tourism in this state is very important and we need to make sure that tourists are not disadvantaged when it comes to our rail system and public transport.

*(Time expired)*