




Speech by

Hon. Annastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

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APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL AND APPROPRIATION BILL: TRANSPORT, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Multicultural Affairs) (12.14 pm): I rise to speak to the estimates committee report for the Transport, Local Government and Infrastructure Committee. At the outset I would like to thank all of the committee members who participated during the process and in particular the chair, Evan Moorhead. I would also like to thank the CEOs who attended, both the CEO of Queensland Rail and the CEO of TransLink.

What was highlighted during this estimates hearing is that the government is continuing its investment into providing transport across Queensland over the next financial year—over \$1.8 billion. Our priority is to build a world-class, sustainable infrastructure system and that is exactly what we are doing.

Mr Seeney: Rubbish! Where were you? You are hallucinating! The longest list of to-dos in the world. The longest list of gonna-dos.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Obviously the Leader of the Opposition is unaware of some of those projects, but I am happy to remind him of them, including the building of the Gold Coast Rapid Transit project system.

Mr Seeney interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Elmes): Order! Leader of the Opposition!

Ms PALASZCZUK: You can have your chance. Also \$47 million was allocated for a joint project between the Australian government, the Moreton Bay Regional Council and, of course, the state government for the Moreton Bay Rail Link. As the Premier announced in this House yesterday, stage 2A of the Eastern Busway is opening on 29 August this year six months ahead of schedule. It is this Labor government that is delivering the busways in South-East Queensland. We are also funding the 125 new and replacement buses for Brisbane with a commitment for more train carriages on the Citytrain network. We have the council promising, under the former lord mayor, new buses. Who is delivering it? The state government. As I made clear to the House today when announcing new CityCats, who has to deliver the CityCats? This state government.

Mr Seeney: Don't take other people's credit.

Ms PALASZCZUK: They are promises that cannot be kept. That is what he is doing. You cannot trust Campbell Newman.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Elmes): Order! Through the chair, please, Minister.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Of course, Mr Deputy Speaker. Work is continuing with the Darra to Springfield line. We have the line at the moment from Darra out to Richlands and we are going to be bringing forward the completion of the Richlands to Springfield section two years ahead of schedule. That will be built within the next two years. That is very much welcome for residents in the areas south-west of Brisbane. Our commitment to cycles is very clear: \$36 million to construct state owned cycle links and \$12.3 million in

grants to local governments across South-East Queensland. But it does not stop there. We are continuing our regional investment for upgrades to airports. I had the pleasure recently to go up to one of the airports in Far North Queensland. That is great for the Royal Flying Doctor service. That was the Atherton Airport. This is money being well spent to make sure that our regional communities are also benefiting. We have also got money committed for the City Place bus station in Cairns and, of course, the Yeppoon rail trail.

In relation to the committee report I would like to make a few comments. The member for Indooroopilly claimed in his statement of reservation that despite rises in public transport fares there has been no increase in services. The facts clearly tell a very different story. We recently undertook the biggest overhaul of the rail timetable in 15 years and added 150,000 extra seats to the Ipswich, Caboolture and Sunshine Coast lines. On top of this, we added 50,000 weekly seats to the bus network to improve connectivity. Over the past two years this government has added more than 600,000 weekly seats to the public transport network and we will keep delivering.

Mr Seeney: Campbell Newman did that.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Campbell Newman did not do it. You are in fantasy world. TransLink and Queensland Rail identified minor issues on the Sunshine Coast line and what did we do? We fixed it straightaway. The member for Gympie came out and welcomed the changes. You might want to go and have a chat to him. The member for Indooroopilly also criticised TransLink's reporting. I want to draw the member's attention to the TransLink tracker report, published quarterly, which gives a detailed snapshot of how our public transport network is performing. The member might want to compare the level of data published here in Queensland with that in other states. In a recent report the Tourism and Transport Forum singled out TransLink when they said that the quarterly TransLink Tracker, mapping the performance of the South-East Queensland network, is the benchmark for public transport performance monitoring in Australia. I note the member for Indooroopilly did acknowledge in his statement that the go card is a well regarded product—finally admitting the go card is a well regarded product. I am pleased that the opposition is finally starting to recognise that the go card has been and will continue to be an outstanding success. I commend the committee report to the House.