



Speech by

## Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk


MEMBER FOR INALA

Hansard Wednesday, 26 October 2011

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### MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

#### Public Transport

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Multicultural Affairs) (2.10 pm): I have more good news for public transport commuters today. From next Monday, 31 October, a \$4 million bus package will see more bus services in Brisbane's southern and south-western suburbs, adding another 62,000 weekly seats. This means that we have already delivered more than half of the 300,000 new seats we promised in 2011-12. We are delivering more frequent services, particularly in off-peak and at weekends, for people in the outer southern suburbs.

This morning I met Robert Dow from Rail Back on Track and caught the 100 bus into the city. This is one of the two new high-frequency bus routes that we are rolling out for people from the outer southern suburbs—the 100 from Forest Lake and the 180 running from Garden City, with both becoming BUZ routes. As a result, timetables will not be needed anymore on these routes as people can basically turn up and go. Just as they do in the city, people in the outer suburbs now have buses that run at least every five to 10 minutes during the peak and every 15 minutes off-peak between 6 am and 11 pm every day, including weekends and public holidays.

This major bus investment, which includes up to 14 new buses, will benefit residents living in Forest Lake, Durack, Inala, Carindale, Eight Mile Plains, Wishart, Mansfield and Holland Park. As part of this new package, commuters along the Ipswich Road corridor, especially through Moorooka and Annerley, and students at Metro South TAFE in Mount Gravatt and Cavendish Road State High School will all enjoy high-frequency services for the first time.

This government has been busy funding new public transport options and seats all year. Two weeks ago, the Acting Premier and I also announced new incentives for regular go card users, giving people free travel after they have made 10 journeys in a week starting from 2 January next year. We are also increasing the off-peak discount from 15 to 20 per cent, boosting the savings for people who travel between 9 am and 3.30 pm and after 7 pm on weekdays.

In June, we added more than 200,000 weekly seats with stage 1 of the train and bus timetable overhaul, with consultation for stage 2 due to begin next month. In August, we rolled out more than 100,000 weekly seats to the network with the opening of the \$466 million Eastern Busway extension to Coorparoo. This government is expanding public transport seats, services and busways across South-East Queensland and we will continue to do so. It is a Labor government delivering public transport for South-East Queensland.