




Speech by

Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

Hansard Thursday, 8 September 2011

EASTERN BUSWAY, OPENING

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Greenslopes—ALP) (Minister for Education and Industrial Relations) (5.06 pm): Saturday, 27 August 2011 was an historic day for the south side of Brisbane. The occasion was the opening of the third stage of the Eastern Busway by Premier Anna Bligh. As residents of the Greenslopes electorate will benefit greatly from this \$465.8 million investment in public transport, I was delighted to represent my community at the opening.

The investment by successive Labor governments in busways is one of the most important and transformative public transport infrastructure projects ever undertaken in Brisbane. The third stage of the Eastern Busway was delivered on budget, six months ahead of schedule. When Labor came to power in 1998 there were no dedicated busways in Brisbane. Today there are now more than \$1.8 billion worth of completed busways across Brisbane running a total of 25 kilometres.

Dedicated busways take buses off our roads, reduce congestion and slash travel times for commuters. In fact, they are cutting commute times for some people by up to 1½ hours a week. Greenslopes residents were lucky to be among the first to enjoy the benefits of a dedicated busway when the South East Busway opened in 2000. Now residents in other parts of the Greenslopes electorate have the opportunity to experience how a dedicated busway can change their lives.

By 2016 the Eastern Busway will carry around 7,000 passengers in morning peak hour. It will revitalise and re-energise the shopping hubs of Stones Corner and Coorparoo. It will make it quicker and easier for people to connect with other people and places all over our city. Whether that means visiting Garden City for shopping, going to university at any of Brisbane's major universities, spending an afternoon at South Bank or getting to work in the city, these are all things that will be simpler and quicker to achieve thanks to the new busway.

The third stage of the Eastern Busway will allow us to deliver 103,590 new weekly seats, 31 new buses, 12 new bus stops and five new bus routes including two new high frequency bus routes on the south side. These include buses like the new 222, which runs from Carindale Shopping Centre to Roma Street every 10 minutes in peak hour and every 15 minutes off peak between 6 am and 11 pm. University of Queensland students and workers as well as other people using the 209 are big winners. Their trip to St Lucia is even quicker now that the Eastern Busway cuts out the loop to Woolloongabba. There is also a new peak-only P217 route, which runs from Carindale to the city via Bennetts Road, Coorparoo, Langlands Park and Stones Corner before terminating at a new CBD stop near Queen and Wharf streets. There are also an additional 24 Sunday trips on the 204 route, which travels from Carindale to the city via Old Cleveland Road.

This is about getting the south side connected and getting the south side moving. A project like the Eastern Busway is the result of the hard work of thousands of people. However, I would like to personally thank and congratulate all the workers who helped deliver this project. Special thanks must go to Paul Schmidt, who served as Director of Busway Infrastructure for the Department of Transport and Main Roads, and Bob Atkinson, Project Manager for the Eastern Busway. This truly is a public transport revolution. It is changing Brisbane for the better. I am proud to be part of a government that is delivering projects like the third stage of the Eastern Busway. It is the sort of infrastructure investment that Brisbane residents will enjoy for decades to come.