



Speech by


**Hon. Cameron Dick**

**MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES**

Hansard Thursday, 16 February 2012

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## **GREENSLOPES ELECTORATE, PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Greenslopes—ALP) (Minister for Education and Industrial Relations) (6.32 pm): As this is the last opportunity I have to speak about matters relating to the Greenslopes electorate before the March election, I want to provide an update on an issue that has been a focal point for me for the past three years: public transport. Improving public transport and reducing traffic congestion have been some of my top priorities since being elected in March 2009. Why? So that residents of the Greenslopes electorate spend less time in traffic and get home quicker.

I am pleased that in the past three years we have made significant improvements to the public transport network servicing the Greenslopes electorate. The centrepiece of these improvements is the addition of the \$465 million Eastern Busway to Main Avenue, Coorparoo. This magnificent piece of infrastructure was delivered on budget and opened in August 2011, six months ahead of schedule. This section of the busway gets commuters off congested suburban roads and can save commuters up to 90 minutes in travel time each week. It has also allowed us to add five new bus routes, and the busway is now being used by more than 2,600 buses each week.

On top of this, last year the Bligh government also announced a major improvement package that added 62,000 new seats to service southern and south-east suburbs every week. This increase followed the 103,590 weekly seats that were added to the network when the new stage of the Eastern Busway opened. These new services benefit thousands of residents in and around the suburbs of Coorparoo, Camp Hill, Greenslopes and Holland Park. The Eastern Busway has been particularly good news for University of Queensland students and staff living in the area. They now have a hassle-free direct route to the St Lucia campus through Annerley, without having to travel through the city. Overall, since 2004 the state government has delivered 270,000 extra bus seats each week in the Greenslopes electorate.

The public transport improvements in the Greenslopes electorate extend beyond the bus network. Local train travellers have also benefited with the major refurbishment of the Coorparoo Railway Station last year. Other local transport projects that have helped relieve congestion and improve commuting times on the southside include the \$2.5 billion Gateway Bridge duplication, which has slashed travel times between the north side and southern suburbs and the construction of the V1 cycle veloway, a 17-kilometre dedicated cycleway that will connect the city and Eight Mile Plains via Holland Park West. By upgrading our public transport networks, residents will spend less time stuck in traffic and more time at home with their families and loved ones.

We have seen considerable progress in the Greenslopes electorate in just three years, but there is always more to be done. I can assure members that I will continue to lobby, advocate and fight on behalf of constituents for the Greenslopes electorate for even better public transport services.