



Speech by


## Darren Grimwade

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

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### TRANSPORT OPERATIONS (PASSENGER TRANSPORT) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr GRIMWADE** (Morayfield—LNP) (5.25 pm): I rise to speak in favour of the Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012. I thank the chair of our committee, the member for Warrego, Mr Howard Hobbs, other colleagues on our committee and of course the hardworking committee secretariat for assisting us in the review of this legislation.

The Newman government was elected with a clear mandate to lower the cost of living for families by cutting waste, delivering better infrastructure and planning, revitalising front-line services and restoring accountability. This bill aims to achieve this reform agenda and it is about Queensland getting its finances and its public transport system all back on track.

This bill will dissolve TransLink as a statutory authority by repealing the TransLink act and allowing for the formal transfer of TransLink's functions to the Department of Transport and Main Roads. In fact, what this bill achieves is the removal of some very wasteful duplication. Public transport in Queensland has been operating under two separate government bodies since 2008, doing essentially the same tasks but for different areas of the state.

Under this bill the department will now be responsible for the delivery of public transport services of all types of public transport modes in all areas of Queensland. It is important to note though that, although it will no longer be a statutory authority as a result of this bill, the TransLink brand will continue and will be expanded. All Queenslanders will benefit from having a single organisation for public transport related issues and it is envisaged that this will be housed and transitioned under the TransLink brand.

Now, after explaining this bill and how this will reduce duplication and unnecessary waste, I will outline a few areas in which all Queenslanders, including those in my electorate, will benefit from the savings delivered by these decisions. In this year's budget the Newman government allocated a record amount of \$1.6 billion to public transport. Let me just outline some of the exciting initiatives that people in my electorate will benefit from due to this massive increase in funding.

Throughout my campaign I was lucky to be joined by the now Minister for Transport, the member for Indooroopilly, Mr Emerson. We stood at many train stations and we listened to the public, the transport users, tell us day in and day out what their concerns were in relation to public transport. It was always about fare prices and the cost of travelling on trains.

This government has introduced a new initiative—the initiative of free trips after nine journeys. What this means for the average person in my electorate is that once they take nine trips on their go card they will receive free trips, including weekend travel. So, to put this in perspective, a mum and dad travelling from Morayfield to the city return Monday to Friday—going to work, going about their daily business—will benefit with one free trip on the Friday afternoon and then all weekend travel for free. Having one free trip on the Friday afternoon will save that person around \$8 from Morayfield and doing that 50 weeks a year will save that person around \$400. This is real cost-of-living relief delivered by the Newman government.

Other areas of public transport that will benefit from the cutting of waste in this program include the fact that we will halve the previous Labor government's proposed increases in fares. If the previous Labor government had been re-elected, public transport fares would have increased by 15 per cent year in, year out, like they had done for the previous three years. We have announced that we will halve that increase that people will have to pay to use our public transport network. I can tell the House that you do not increase patronage by whacking up fares. This is simply the biggest issue for those who are suffering under increased cost-of-living pressures, and the one thing that was highlighted the most to me was the cost of travelling on trains.

Labor's plan to increase patronage was to spend \$750,000 buying 190,000 backpacks that were somehow supposed to get people onto trains. We heard the Minister for Transport explain during the estimates committee that when we came to power 58,000 of these backpacks were still sitting in offices doing nothing; they were no good for anybody and they were dusted up and locked away. It was great to hear the minister explain that those 58,000 backpacks that had been sitting in that cupboard had been distributed to local charities to be put to good use.

This bill will cut waste and deliver cost-of-living relief for Queenslanders, and there are a number of areas that people in my electorate will benefit from. One of these is the reduction in motor vehicle registration fees. As we have heard, this government will freeze motor vehicle registration for the next three years, or the full term of this government. We have also announced the freezing of tariff 11 electricity prices. Again, this will bring relief to those households.

Other details in the budget include a one-off \$80 water rebate, which will be welcomed by those in my electorate, and the reintroduction of a stamp duty concession on the family home. This concession means we will not only save people money on their public transport fares and offer cost-of-living relief but we will also help them when they buy a home by saving them around \$7,000 on the purchase price of that house. We have helped businesses by removing the job-destroying waste levy, which was implemented by the former Labor government in an effort to increase taxation to pay for their woeful financial mismanagement. We have also increased the threshold for payroll tax to help businesses employ more people in Queensland. A clear priority of this government is to eliminate wasteful spending and lower the cost of living for Queenslanders.

In conclusion, the Newman government is committed to the delivery of affordable, reliable and frequent public transport in Queensland. This bill will help achieve this by eliminating duplication and restoring accountability for our public transport system. This can only be a positive step for the state's public transport network. It is for this reason that I urge all honourable members in this place to support this bill tonight. I commend the bill to the House.