



Speech by


**Lisa France**

**MEMBER FOR PUMICESTONE**

Hansard Tuesday, 10 July 2012

---

## **BRIBIE ISLAND, BUS SERVICES**

 **Mrs FRANCE** (Pumicestone—LNP) (11.54 am): Today I rise to speak on a matter of public interest that has been simmering away in my electorate of Pumicestone for years now. During the past three months since the LNP government was elected, a constant stream of people have spoken to me about their concerns relating to public transport bus services in my area. The main areas affected include Bribie Island, Beachmere, Caboolture, Bellmere and the Caboolture train station and CBD parking. My community's long-running concerns are primarily with areas that currently do not have a service, the relocation of bus stops, timetabling issues or, for some unfortunate commuters, all three. The residents of Bribie Island, which is just a stone's throw away from the major commercial and residential hub of Caboolture, are concerned about the number and timing of local bus services to and from the island. I have been contacted by a number of constituents who have concerns about the scheduling of buses and are now reaching out to a new government to listen to their concerns and provide real solutions.

One constituent in my electorate advised that up until 2009, when TransLink rearranged the bus services, the bus services for commuters on Bribie Island and surrounding areas were great. In the morning there were two services direct to the Caboolture train station and in the evening there were two services back to the island. Those services were scheduled to fit in with the train timetables, with the morning bus arriving just before two express train services to Brisbane. Commuters would only have to catch one bus and one train to reach their destination and the door-to-door time was an hour and a half. It was quicker than driving to Brisbane.

The same commute now takes Bribie Island residents 2½ hours. Two years ago the local bus services were altered so that now commuters must change at the park-and-ride facility at the Bribie Island Shopping Centre in order to get across to the Caboolture train station. The direct buses were removed from the timetable and the buses from the park-and-ride facility no longer meet the express trains at Caboolture. Constituents have expressed their frustration at repeatedly pulling into the Caboolture station on a bus as the Brisbane train pulls away. The train services also changed from frequent express services to all-station services, adding a significant amount of time to a commuter's journey.

The constituents who approached TransLink at the time were told that the Bribie Island buses were too crowded and something had to be done to ease the overcrowding. Changes resulting in the service becoming unusable is not the solution that the constituents were hoping for. According to one constituent, in the last couple of months the response from TransLink has been that there are now too few commuters from Bribie Island to Caboolture to warrant a change in the bus timetable. It is obvious that the reason there are too few commuters is that the change has meant that now bus travel is not a feasible option.

A number of commuters have contacted me to advise that they have been forced to buy their own set of wheels or relocate closer to their work as the commute is too unreliable to get to work or uni on time. You need only look at the carpark at the Caboolture Railway Station to see the number of cars parked there before 8 am. The commuters are not opting for the bus connections. They are taking their cars to the station and adding to the CBD parking problem. The residents who have spoken with my office have explained they cannot catch the buses and trains any more because they simply do not provide a feasible

option for commuters. They are forced to drive to Caboolture station themselves and many now say they drive all the way through to work, increasing the pollution and the congestion on our roads.

My constituents are struggling to understand how a system that was working so well is now so inefficient. They are desperate to see some action on what has become a major problem in my electorate, which is impacting negatively on commuters' work and study commitments. This week I was contacted by a constituent who has taken it upon themselves to design a new timetable for the Bribie Island bus network. If the situation is so frustrating for residents that they feel they have to come up with the solutions themselves, I think it is time for action. Clearly, for the past two years the previous government ignored these complaints and it is time they were taken seriously. I am cognisant of the huge debt that Labor racked up and realise that it will affect solutions to the problem. I commit to the commuters and local bus companies in my area to creating viable and common-sense solutions for the residents of my electorate and to demonstrate that this LNP government is a government that works proactively for Queenslanders.