




Speech by

Michael Pucci

MEMBER FOR LOGAN

Hansard Thursday, 23 August 2012

LOGAN ELECTORATE, PUBLIC TRANSPORT

 **Mr PUCCI** (Logan—LNP) (3.18 pm): I rise to speak on the community needs assessment that was conducted by Planning and Community Engagement Pty Ltd for areas within my electorate of Logan. The assessment focused on several key elements of community development, from local business to schooling to community programs and infrastructure—all areas that have been neglected for many years in Logan. This assessment highlighted areas that are essential for the growth and viability of any emerging community. Today I speak specifically about the need for a strong and practical public transportation network. Public transport is vital—almost a lifeblood, if you will—for any community. My electorate of Logan sits on the semirural outskirts of greater Brisbane. It is in close proximity to Brisbane. Many of my constituents commute and are reliant on public transport.

Sadly, due to the lack of support from the former government, the public transport network in my electorate of Logan is by no means sufficient to support the ever-expanding community basin. Areas within my electorate such as Flagstone and Logan Village, which have a population in excess of 4,000 residents, are not serviced by any form of TransLink public transport. This shows the poor planning and government practices implemented during the 20 years of a Labor government. The former Premier, like the one before her, landed this state under a mountain of debt. And what do we have to show for it? Nothing! The people of my electorate have nothing to show from years of inept Labor management.

When the growth of a state, of a community or of an industry is in the best interests of all Queenslanders, we must support that growth. In my opinion, public transport is a key element to that very growth. Logan has only one mass transport hub located at the very tip of my electorate in Browns Plains. Residents from all over my electorate converge on this single point every day to go to work. Last week I met with commuters on their way to and from work during peak hour. I rode the network and saw firsthand what needs to be done. Their frustration over the fact that they have for so long gone without any form of satellite transportation networks in a community that in the coming years is projected to expand and play a significant role in the growth of greater Brisbane is a voice that cannot be ignored.

High-density urban areas like Flagstone, Logan Village, Munruben, Park Ridge and Greenbank need a viable public transport network that links in with the mainstream network operating to and from the Brisbane CBD. Logan is an electorate with so many possibilities that lay before it. To reach those possibilities, we need the means and the ways to grow and provide a sustainable link to the workforce throughout South-East Queensland. Without a thorough assessment of the public transport needs within the Logan area, communities like Flagstone, Munruben, Park Ridge and Greenbank will continue to be disadvantaged—like they have been for so long. It is time that the developing regions of my electorate link in with greater Brisbane and keep pace with our ever robust and expanding state.