




Speech by

Michael Pucci

MEMBER FOR LOGAN

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TRANSPORT OPERATIONS (PASSENGER TRANSPORT) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr PUCCI** (Logan—LNP) (5.08 pm): Today, I rise in support of the Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012. This bill is about the safe, secure and efficient delivery of public transport to Queenslanders, as well as implementing plans to cut costs affecting families by revitalising front-line services, restoring government accountability, delivering better infrastructure and planning and, of course, cutting waste.

After the election on 24 March one of the very first things I did, before we even had offices and before we were even sworn in in May, was contact the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, the Hon. Scott Emerson. Everybody knows how important public transportation is to me and my electorate of Logan. I have been lobbying for it since the election campaign. I am always in the ear of the assistant minister, Steve Minnikin, and the Minister for Transport. I have spoken previously in the parliament about the need for public transportation in Logan.

I went and got a go card and rode bus transportation in the whole of Logan. I have talked to people at the bus stops at five in the morning, three in the afternoon, six at night and nine at night. I have submitted a report to the Department of Transport and Main Roads, TransLink and the assistant minister outlining my recommendations on how I think we can improve transportation in my area. I have organised for the assistant minister to visit my electorate. He has happily agreed to come down and check out what we have. Public transportation is not only a need but also a must in my area. It is very important to me and the people of Logan.

Bureaucratic entanglement and duplication seemed to be a typical day in the life of the former government. With two separate administrative elements pursuing the same object, the pockets of everyday Queenslanders were surely the victim of yet another bureaucratic bungle. By making effective cost-saving measures through the removal of administrative duplication and legislative mechanisms allowing the enforcement of penalties for offenders, the ability to provide better services, better safety and even support the expansion of our public transport network is achievable.

With the perilous situation our government found our economy in when we came to office, the task of supporting the public transport network was an arduous one. As mentioned before, the administrative duplication needed to be streamlined and dramatically reduced. This bill will see the dissolution of the TransLink Transit Authority through the repeal of the Transport Operations (TransLink Transit Authority) Act 2008. This step will resolve the current interface issues that have resulted from two separate elements. This bill also ensures that, with the dissolution of TransLink, employees' entitlements will be protected when their functions are transferred to the state.

This bill will also see minor amendments made to the Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994. They will entail the improvement of the administration of civil banning orders, the enhancement of the definition of public transport infrastructure and the extension of the maximum term for an emergency service contract without inviting offers. It will also clarify that a transit officer may either release a person on the direction of a police officer or hold them until such time as a police officer can respond to the situation.

In addition to the administrative streamlining and public safety measures that will come about with this amendment, regulation over the use of taxi meters will finally be brought into line. With the passage of this bill it will now be an offence for vehicles other than taxis to use taxi meters.

This amendment bill will achieve clarification of when penalties relating to civil bans are issued and the accruing period for multiple infringements. This amendment bill also creates the clarification that the application regarding the civil banning order does not need to provide evidence of the respondent's personal circumstances when preparing civil banning order applications.

This amendment bill enhances the definition of public transport infrastructure by ensuring that all public transportation infrastructure includes all infrastructure that is related to the provision of public passenger services for rail, light rail, bus and ferry modes of transport. This broadened definition will give administrators of public transport clear-cut guidelines in which to execute the functions and responsibilities effectively.

These measures are in keeping with our government's firm commitment to lowering the cost of living and revitalising front-line services. This legislation, as I have mentioned before, will create savings through the more effective administration of public transport infrastructure. It is through these steps that further projects within our electorates can receive the long-awaited attention they sorely deserve.

The long-term outcomes from the legislation will allow options for the expansion of public transport services for our electorates. Areas such as Logan Village, Greater Flagstone, Greenbank and Park Ridge will undoubtedly benefit as a result of this legislation—and its fiscally responsible approach to the transport network—for years to come. The cost savings of this legislation can be seen in a variety of areas including accommodation, staffing and overheads.

The former government, with every move they made, acted with no appropriate consultation with relevant and affected parties. That has now changed. This LNP government has actively engaged the Limousine Association Queensland and the Taxi Council of Queensland when making the new legislation around the regulation of equipping and utilising taxi meters in unauthorised vehicles. This move has been warmly welcomed by the respective associations.

I support this amending legislation and commend the honourable Minister for Transport and Main Roads for implementing these steps to get public transport infrastructure back on track. I commend this bill to the House.