




Speech By
Annastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

MOTION: PUBLIC TRANSPORT

 **Ms PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (5.40 pm): I rise to support the motion moved in this House by the member for South Brisbane. I want to talk a bit about my local electorate. This bus review is having a huge impact on local commuters. If we go back in time, I can remember, as a young teenager, growing up in Inala with no council buses. In fact, it took the election of Jim Soorley, a Labor lord mayor, to bring the council buses into Inala. Have the people of Inala embraced the buses? Yes, they have. In fact, over time the state government under the former Labor government expanded the services. Not only that, it was a Labor government that actually opened the brand new Richlands Railway Station and also extended the train line from Darra out to Richlands with the plan for it to continue on to Springfield.

This bus review will have far-reaching consequences right across South-East Queensland. When a bus route is taken out of a community it cannot be brought back. What this minister has failed to understand is that there has been very little consultation. I have not seen any form of consultation from this minister or from TransLink out in my local community. That is a complete and utter disgrace. This is having a huge impact.

A government member: The website!

Ms PALASZCZUK: Frankly, member, not everyone has access to computers. They might in your electorate, but I know there are some people in my electorate who do not have access to computers. In the past TransLink would go out and consult. Why does TransLink not do that now? Because this government has cut the TransLink community engagement staff. I ask the minister how many staff have been cut?

This is a flawed review. It is a flawed review because the minister does not understand that this will have an impact on pensioners, school students and young mothers with prams.

Government members interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Order! Members!

Ms PALASZCZUK: There are some parts of South-East Queensland where people do not have the luxury of having two cars. They rely on public transport.

Government members interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Order! I warn members to cease their interjections. I will start warning them under standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: People should not take this for granted. They rely on public transport to get to their medical appointments, to get to the PA for their hospital appointments, to get their kids to school and to go and do their local shopping. This minister wants people to catch two or three buses.

Let me tell the minister that it is a bit hard to carry all of your groceries for the week swapping and changing buses two or three times.

I want to talk briefly about some of the bus routes. Bus route 100 in Inala was upgraded to a BUZ route. That meant that there was no need for a timetable. You could essentially turn up and go. For off-peak or public holidays it was roughly every 15 minutes and during peak periods it was every 10 minutes. People used this service. It was widely embraced and now this minister wants to cut it in half and direct half of the traffic to Mount Ommaney. There has been no consultation. He has not even bothered to come out and explain this to anyone in the local area. This will mean that there is no high-frequency transport option from Inala and Forest Lake into the city. The TransLink website recommends that people currently using the 100 seeking a higher frequency route should transfer to the train at Oxley or a high-frequency bus at Mount Ommaney.

It is not just commuters to the city who are feeling the pinch. The removal of routes 101 and 102 will mean that people in Inala wishing to access shops in Corinda will need to use the train and walk instead of catching the bus. The rerouting of the 122 will also mean people in my electorate lose their direct link with the QEII Hospital and Griffith University and the removal of route 462 will mean Forest Lake residents travelling to Darra will need to change to the train or another bus at Richlands station adding time to their journey.

In conclusion, TransLink is no longer a statutory authority. It was this minister who said TransLink is now coming under the control of the minister and the department. This means the buck stops with the minister. This means that the minister is responsible. Stop blaming TransLink, stop blaming the staff at TransLink. The minister is backflipping. He does not understand what he is doing. There will be a lot of protests and out in my community the first one starts this Saturday.