




Speech By
Ros Bates

MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA

Record of Proceedings, 25 November 2014

ADJOURNMENT

Mudgeeraba Electorate, Public Transport

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (11.18 pm): Last month I tabled a petition signed by 1,023 residents of the Mudgeeraba electorate which called on the Minister for Transport and Main Roads to revisit our bus routes in Mudgeeraba. Since February, Mudgeeraba locals from all walks of life have reached out to me after the bus services that they relied on hourly had changed and the route from Robina to Mudgeeraba terminated in Robina after 5.30 pm.

Pensioners who used public transport to do their shopping or to attend urgent medical appointments were concerned that the department had changed their bus routes with little or no consultation with them. Businesspeople who use buses to get to and from the train station for their morning and evening commutes could no longer easily do so. On behalf of my residents, I sponsored this petition with the help of a concerned resident, Shirley Packham, after my concerns were not addressed in the way I had hoped following discussions with the department.

Residents brought to my attention the need to restore bus route No. 750 so it terminates in Mudgeeraba and for bus route No. 748 to return to half-hourly from hourly services, particularly during peak times. We need to ensure that pensioners can get out and about to purchase the supplies that they need or to attend the doctors' appointments that they require. We need to ensure that our kids can get safely to school and their parents do not have to drive them. We need to ensure that the businesspeople, particularly those who work at Robina Town Centre, are not stranded at the train station when they return from a hard day's work in the evening. We need to ensure that young Rochelle Roberts, a university student from my electorate, never again encounters a distraught teenage girl at the Mudgeeraba Market Shopping Centre who was left by herself, stranded and alone, because her bus back to Robina simply was not coming.

We have a basic responsibility to ensure the safety of the public and to provide them with the public transport services they need. Today I met with the minister and I outlined my concerns for residents who use these bus routes. Whilst I understand that the routes need to be utilised, in some cases it is the only method of transport for the elderly or for young people who have yet to obtain their driver's licence. I am very pleased that the minister took on board my concerns, particularly in relation to route 750. Route 750 goes from Robina Town Centre and used to go to the Mudgeeraba shopping centre, but it currently terminates at Highfield Drive on the eastern side of the highway. So that makes it very difficult for anybody who works at Robina Town Centre who relies on public transport to get back home to Mudgeeraba after 5.30 pm. As I said, the minister took on board my concerns and I hope to see a resolution of at least one of these routes in the very near future.

In the meantime residents need to ensure that the patronage increases. I understand that there are financial concerns about the number of people using buses but, as I mentioned before, sometimes it is the only method of transport. So, again, I thank the minister and hope that I can relay a solution to my constituents in the near future.

(Time expired)