




Speech By
Stephen Bennett

MEMBER FOR BURNETT

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ADJOURNMENT

Public Transport

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (12.26 am): There was terrific news this week when the transport and main roads minister announced that savings from the repeal of the job-destroying carbon tax would be reinvested in our public transport system. We all recognise that the carbon tax drove up the cost of living through rising electricity prices, gas prices, council rates and additional cost for public transport. I can advise that we have had an overwhelming response to the two-week-long survey, with constituents appreciative of a government that allows the opportunity to have their say on what they would like the saving to go toward—either cheaper fares or more bus services. If Queenslanders choose a decrease in bus and train fares, it will be the first time in our state's history that there has been a state-wide cut to public transport fares.

With our local campaign and communications continuing, it is clear that there is a strong mood for more services to Bargara and Burnett Heads and of course around Bundaberg. Of no surprise, regions outside Bundaberg are expressing a desire for bus services to Bundaberg from towns like Childers and Moore Park Beach as currently there are no services at all.

In researching the significance of the announcement, I can advise that a regular weekday passenger travelling two zones in the Bundaberg region could save \$88 a year. There are currently 506 existing bus services per week operating in the Bundaberg area. We could do with a lot more. I acknowledge that it appears that the engagement with the public is showing a desire for a reduction in fares; however, in my electorate we are clearly in need of additional services and infrastructure such as bus shelters. With significant reforms continuing we have seen \$350 million invested in our two-year Road Safety Action Plan, leading to the lowest road toll on record. We have delivered the Bruce Highway Action Plan and negotiated an \$8.5 million deal with our federal colleagues to ensure the Bruce is everything we expect. I encourage all persons with an interest in further improving public transport in our region to have their say by visiting translink.com.au or phoning 131230 before midnight this Sunday, 14 September.

I acknowledge the residents of Burnett Heads in drawing the attention of Bundaberg Regional Council to the lack of bus shelters, signage and bus pull-in safety zones in Burnett Heads. It is important that petitions tabled in this House are acknowledged as so important. Local residents are seeking provisions for bus shelters and signage in Milton and Shelley streets in Burnett Heads. A petition that was handed in to the Bundaberg Regional Council sought a reconsideration of the priority to install bus shelters. We know that the council is struggling with funds in this space and, of course, we do ask for special treatment as year 7 transitions into high school. We know that buses have no safety pull-in zones and we need to make sure that stops are safe for the kids in our regions.