




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Record of Proceedings, 14 June 2016

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Public Transport, Fares

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.43 am): My government has delivered on its promise to deliver fairer fares. We have considered and listened to the expert advice of the independent fare review task force. We have incorporated this advice into our Fairer Fares package. Under our plan, more than 93 per cent of public transport users in South-East Queensland will get cheaper fares. That is higher than the 86 per cent who would have benefited under the recommendations from the task force.

On Sunday I joined the Minister for Transport and the member for Brisbane Central to announce the details of the government's strategy. The new zone and fare structure will be implemented from 1 January next year. It will restore affordability and fairness to public transport fares in South-East Queensland.

As part of my government's fare strategy we will be simplifying and streamlining the network. The existing 23 zones will now be consolidated to eight zones, reducing the need for commuters to cross multiple zones. Fares will better reflect the distances that public transport users travel. It will encourage people to use public transport not only for commuting but also for short journeys within their local area. Families will also benefit from the introduction of the children travel free at weekends initiative. Seniors will continue to enjoy free travel each day after two journeys with the retention of One, Two, Free.

My government understands that many jobseekers also rely on public transport. The new fare strategy will now allow those on the Newstart Allowance to travel on a concession fare, giving a welcome boost to those trying to find employment in South-East Queensland. We will also be extending concession fares to one of the most vulnerable groups in our society—asylum seekers.

The government will keep fares frozen until the changes take effect on 1 January next year. In addition, we have guaranteed that fares will not be increased in 2017 when the major fare savings are passed on. The government is now asking people for their feedback over the next six weeks. I look forward to the implementation of the new fare strategy and the real improvements it will make to our public transport system.