




Speech By
Leanne Linard

MEMBER FOR NUDGEЕ

Record of Proceedings, 17 June 2016

ADJOURNMENT

Public Transport, Fares

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (1.33 am): Public transport patrons in Queensland will travel further for less following the government's response to the SEQ Fare Review announced by the Premier and Minister for Transport on Sunday. At the last election the Palaszczuk government made a commitment to improve our public transport fare system, address affordability and deliver fairer public transport fares. In August last year, the government appointed an independent expert task force to lead a comprehensive review of TransLink's fare structure in SEQ to deliver on that commitment. During the review, the government announced a freeze on the former LNP's annual scheduled 2½ per cent fare increase.

This week, public transport took centre stage in the budget, with the announcement of the government's Fairer Fares package in response to the recommendations of that independent fare review task force. The government's response ensures that the maximum number of commuters benefit, with fares slashed across SEQ from next year for all zones of travel. More than 93 per cent of public transport users across SEQ will save money. This will deliver real cost-of-living relief to public transport users.

With 12 train stations and 394 active bus stops in the Nudgee electorate, this is good news for commuters across my entire electorate. From 1 January next year, the existing 23 zones across the network will be streamlined into eight. The resulting reduction in the need for commuters to cross multiple zones means lower fares and fares that are more representative of the distance travelled by public transport users.

Regular weekly commuters will also benefit from half-price fares after making eight eligible trips. This 'eight and 50 per cent' was a recommendation of the task force and will result in a far greater number of people benefiting compared to the 'nine and free'. Families will benefit from the introduction of the children travel free at weekends initiative, and seniors will continue to enjoy free travel each day after two journeys with the retention of 'one, two, free'.

Jobseekers have raised with me the difficulty they experience in attending job interviews due to a lack of private transport and/or the cost of public transport fares adding up and becoming cost prohibitive. We understand that many jobseekers rely on public transport. The new fare strategy will allow those on Newstart Allowance to travel on a concession fare, providing some welcome relief to those trying to find employment in South-East Queensland. Concession fares will also be extended to one of the most vulnerable groups in our society, asylum seekers.

Simplification of the zoning system will result in savings to constituents in my electorate per year in the order of \$315 per passenger per year from Toombul station to the city; a saving of \$328 for a passenger travelling from the Chermside Shopping Centre bus exchange to the CBD; and up to \$578 per passenger from North Boondall station or bus stop to the city. Not only will the government keep fares frozen until the changes take effect on 1 January next year; it has guaranteed that fares will not increase in 2017 when the major fare savings are passed on. The Palaszczuk government is delivering real cost-of-living relief to South-East Queensland public transport users. I thank the transport minister on behalf of all the commuters in my electorate.