




Speech By
Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR SANDGATE

Record of Proceedings, 14 June 2016

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Public Transport, Fares

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games) (9.57 am): The Palaszczuk government understands that the cost of living is a huge pressure in the lives of Queenslanders. That is why I was so proud to stand with the Premier in announcing this government's Fairer Fares package for South-East Queensland. The Palaszczuk government's Fairer Fares package delivers on our election commitment to review public transport fares policy in Queensland and make them fairer, simpler and more affordable for the largest number of people.

We set the goal of designing a fare structure that got people back on public transport, simplified the network and delivered value for money. On Sunday the Premier delivered that goal. This is the single largest reform to public transport services in South-East Queensland in more than a decade. From 1 January next year South-East Queenslanders will benefit from cheaper fares across all travel zones; 23 travel zones will be cut to eight; 20 per cent off-peak discounts will be extended from 3 am to 6 am; children aged between five and 14 years will travel free at weekends; the One, Two, Free incentive for seniors and pensioners will stay; and the '9 and free' incentive will be replaced with an eight plus 50 per cent incentive.

This is a government that is committed to not only creating jobs but also getting people better connected to their work. We know that public transport is critical in connecting people with jobs, education, health care and essential services. This package delivers fare relief for 93 per cent of existing public transport users. Some will save hundreds or more a year. These reforms will encourage more people to use public transport and reduce congestion.

This government said it would reduce fares, and we have done that decisively with our Fairer Fares package, along with a freeze on fare increases for the next 18 months across the rest of Queensland. Under this government, public transport fares have remained frozen or they have been slashed. Consultation is also open and, as the Premier said earlier, South-East Queenslanders will be able to have their say on this package until the middle of July.

For too long affordability has been a barrier to patronage growth on public transport. As minister, I believe that transport is about the movement of people, capital, goods and ideas. Through Fairer Fares, the Palaszczuk government is backing the public transport users in South-East Queensland, and we are doing so because we are also backing the economy in South-East Queensland.