



Speech By
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MEMBER FOR JORDAN

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ADJOURNMENT

Jordan Electorate, Public Transport

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (7.07 pm): Late last year I met a local mum and her beautiful baby daughter living in Flagstone. Whilst chatting, she mentioned to me that she and her husband only have one vehicle which he takes every day to travel to his job. She told me that, as a result, she was really struggling—stuck at home with her baby with no transportation, unable to even go to the local shops. This year, I spoke with an older couple who have lived in Greenbank for many years. They drive everywhere, but as they get older they prefer not to drive long distances anymore but they need to access medical services and driving is their only option. Only recently, I spoke with a local dad, also from Greenbank. He told me his son had completed school but was struggling to get work as he did not have his driver's licence yet and he relied on his parents to help him get to job interviews.

These are three stories that are reflective of a number I have heard as I speak with locals in the area of Greenbank, New Beith and Flagstone. Whether you are a young school leaver who is looking for work, an elderly member of our community wishing to access health or government services or a stay-at-home parent with no vehicle to get around, lack of public transport makes life just that little bit harder.

Since I became the member for Jordan in late 2017, addressing this issue has been a priority for me and I have worked closely with relevant government departments and the member for Logan on how we can progress public transport to this area. Whilst the rural and residential nature of these communities makes it slightly more difficult, it should never be impossible. That is why I am thrilled that as a result of our strong representations, from November this year residents in the area known as Greater Flagstone will have access to new TransLink operated bus services. This has been made possible due to a \$19.6 million funding agreement over the next 10 years to deliver these services and the strong support of ministers Dick and Bailey. As demand increases, further services will be added to provide greater opportunities for jobs, community and social services. The first services will connect residents with the key local transport and commercial hub at Grand Plaza in Browns Plains and then onto express services to Brisbane.

I look forward to sharing more details with the local community, including the final route, bus stop locations and timetables as we prepare for the inaugural journey of the very first TransLink service later this year. We know that ultimately public transport for this region will be provided via a new rail line from Beaudesert to Salisbury, and planning work for this has already commenced. However, we also know that we cannot add new rail lines or extend rail lines in South-East Queensland without fixing the critical blockage within the city centre. That is why we need Cross River Rail to be delivered and why this project is a priority, not as some inner-city project but for the outer metropolitan areas that will benefit most from opening up the rail network in South-East Queensland. It is also why it continues to be a great disappointment that the federal government continues to ignore Cross River Rail and as a result is cheating our outer metro areas from having access to rail services earlier.