




Speech By
James Martin

MEMBER FOR STRETTON

Record of Proceedings, 2 December 2021

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT

Stretton Electorate, Bus Services

 **Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (2.47 pm): I rise to share some fantastic news for the people of Stretton: the residents of the Stretton Gardens Retirement Estate are getting a dedicated bus stop right outside their village on Illaweena Street—so, too, are the students of Stretton State College, right between their junior and senior campuses on Gowan Road. This means that residents will not have to walk 800 metres, or an extra 15 minutes, uphill from the last stop on the 130 route to their homes and students will be able to get their bus right from school.

I want to recognise the hard work of the residents at the Stretton Gardens Retirement Estate and their residents committee who, alongside late member and our good friend Duncan Pegg, campaigned for this bus stop. I especially thank Stretton Gardens residents Neil Finlayson, Vic Borghero and the late Noel Vass, who sadly passed away earlier this year, who worked tirelessly fighting for this bus stop. I also thank Minister Mark Bailey, who took the time to come and visit the residents of Stretton Gardens and listen to their concerns. I also thank Cameron McAlpine, the manager at Stretton Gardens, who always advocates for the needs of his residents. There has been massive support for this project and it is a huge win for the Stretton community.

By way of background, this bus stop would not be possible without the efforts of Duncan Pegg. He helped the mums and dads of Stretton State College remove the dangerous Brisbane City Council bus turnaround from their grounds. This unusual situation was dangerous to students, and removing buses from the school was a large factor in the project going ahead.

Furthermore, this bus stop was locally known as the ghost bus stop because the Brisbane City Council made the retirement village build the stop as part of its original DA. However, the stop was never serviced by the main route and residents had to walk a fair distance to the last stop on the route. I believe our senior citizens deserve to have public transport access within a reasonable walking distance of their front door, but Stretton Gardens residents have had to struggle through a long Brisbane City Council approval process to get the bus stop situation resolved.

Today I am pleased to announce that works to upgrade the bus stops at Stretton Gardens and across the road at Stretton State College have begun—a win for students and seniors alike. This \$4.8 million project will be delivered in two stages. The first stage will be the new bus stops which will be finished early next year and the second stage will be extending the existing 130 bus service and building a new bus turnaround facility along Gowan Road, and plans for this are being finalised. This will make it easier for the Stretton community to access public transport and the extensions will bring benefits for bus users in the southern part of Calamvale and Stretton along Gowan Road. All of this would not be possible without the Palaszczuk government's record investment in public transport. The works will also provide signalised pedestrian crossings on Illaweena Street, safety improvements to the line marking, improved cycling facilities and a new signalised left turn on to Gowan Road. All of these upgrades will improve connectivity in our community and make life easier for our fast growing Stretton State College community.