




Speech By
James Martin

MEMBER FOR STRETTON

Record of Proceedings, 17 August 2022

ADJOURNMENT

Stretton Electorate, Bus Services

 **Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (7.23 pm): It has been a big week in Stretton with the opening of a brand new bus stop outside Stretton State College. Stretton students can now jump on the 130 bus every 10 minutes from right outside the school. It was a pleasure to visit the new stop recently with the college captain, Fahima Ahmadi, former YMCA youth member for Stretton. The new stop on Gowan Road allows the 130 bus service to be extended and removes the old dangerous bus turnaround facility that was previously on school grounds.

The new bus stop follows the opening of another one across the road at the Stretton Gardens Retirement Estate. I campaigned for this with the late member for Stretton, our friend Duncan Pegg, along with many seniors of the Stretton Gardens community. The seniors at Stretton Gardens used to have to walk 180 metres to get the bus. It was very difficult for them and it discouraged the use of public transport. Unfortunately, the Brisbane City Council dragged their feet on the issue and approvals took far longer than they should have.

I also want to recognise the late Noel Vass, who campaigned for this. Noel spoke with me and residents at many morning teas at Stretton Gardens. He was concerned about the welfare of his fellow retirees and seniors. Thanks to his efforts and the efforts of me and the Palaszczuk government, Stretton Gardens residents can now catch the bus directly out the front of their estate.

I visited the estate on day one of the new bus service, and residents were ecstatic that the new stops and associated road upgrades were delivered. It was part of a \$4.8 million investment in my local area that has improved access to public transport. It has made their lives and those of other members of my community much easier. I would like to thank to Minister Mark Bailey for meeting me and local residents onsite to discuss these much needed upgrades. He came along during the Stretton by-election and I am pleased to be delivering on this election commitment today.

I also want to give a special mention to Cameron McAlpine, the manager of the retirement estate, who works tirelessly to provide residents with such a fantastic place to enjoy their retirement. I was proud to present Cameron with a Stretton Queensland Day award earlier this year. A pat on the back also needs to be given to Noel's wife, Betty Vass, and Neil Finlaysson, Kevin Slattery and Vic Borghero, who all played a big role in the campaign for this bus stop. Their efforts have now been rewarded. As part of the upgrades there will also be new signalised pedestrian crossings on Illaweena Street, safety improvements to line markings and improved cycling facilities. Investments like this are vital for our growing Stretton community, and I will work hard to ensure they continue.