



Speech By  
**Jonty Bush**


**MEMBER FOR COOPER**

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Record of Proceedings, 11 October 2023

**MOTION**

**Cost of Living**

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (5.16 pm): I rise to support the minister's amendment to the motion. I love hearing the Greens party talking about emissions caused by transport. This is the same party whose solution on aircraft noise will dump 50 million litres of additional fuel burnt in this year alone. It is quite extraordinary. I do think it is great that the member for Maiwar has raised the issue of public transport in the House. The member for Maiwar and I are neighbours. As such, I appreciate that our constituents do care about this issue. Ensuring we have a comprehensive, reliable, convenient and accessible public transport service and infrastructure is something that all communities care about, including ours.

The population growth in Queensland, and South-East Queensland particularly, is extraordinary. I doorknock regularly in my community and it is not lost on me how many people have moved into our area in the last few years, and why would they not? It is the most wonderful place in Queensland to live. One of our strengths is our proximity to the city. We have an ability to access world-class public transport, whether it is my local 362 bus—whose route was recently extended for the benefit of Ashgrove residents who want to catch a train to work via the Milton or Auchenflower train stations—or using a combination of public and active transport. We do have a fantastic network of dedicated bike paths throughout my electorate. I speak regularly to residents of varying fitness levels who are able to get in and out of the city to work on these.

The Palaszczuk Labor government is investing record amounts in public transport and, unlike the Greens, we can deliver. Some members like to promise the world to their community and to Queensland, but you could drive a bus through their track record of delivery. Our commitment to drive down the cost of public transport is clear. Right now we already cover 80 per cent of the cost of every bus, train, tram and ferry ticket sold in Queensland. Up until the pandemic, we did have record patronage on South-East Queensland's services and, for the member's benefit, after COVID many people are now working from home and so they are not on buses and they are also not on the road, which is a great thing.

One hundred per cent of revenue from ticket sales is invested back into public transport services to build safer, more reliable and more accessible public transport for all Queenslanders—this is what people in my community talk about. It is not so much about the cost of public transport, but the importance of extending it and making it even more convenient. That is where the revenue for the ticket sales is going, and people in my community understand that. It is how we are investing in public transport expansion in Brisbane and in regional Queensland. We are building new infrastructure and upgrading existing infrastructure across the state. We are investing in accessibility upgrades at stations across the network, including the Auchenflower station which I recently had the pleasure of opening with the minister. I note it is, in fact, in the member for Maiwar's electorate. It would be great if the member could talk about that station a bit more to his constituents. It is reliable, safe and it is accessible, which is important given its proximity to the Wesley Hospital.

Across the Queensland Rail network and Cross River Rail, we are absolutely focused on delivering station accessibility upgrades to the whole public transport network. Under the Station Accessibility Upgrade Program, upgrades at 12 stations have been completed. As part of Cross River Rail, we are delivering more accessibility upgrades across stations between Dutton Park and Salisbury and new accessible stations at Boggo Road, Woolloongabba, Albert Street, Roma Street and the Ekka station. All stations now have lifts installed to help with boarding as well as hearing augmentation loops, new tactile surfaces to better navigate the stations and active transport enclosures to enable customers to ride and safely store their bikes and scooters at the end of their ride to the station.

The Greens talk about free public transport in Luxembourg and Estonia. I appreciate that a Google search will reveal a few jurisdictions that have implemented free public transport, but there is no reliable evidence that these policies have increased patronage over the long term or driven down congestion. They are not comparable jurisdictions. Queensland is a huge state, and the implementation of a free public transport policy has to be delivered with consideration to geography and consumer behaviours. The South-East Queensland public transport network is one of the largest in the world—more than 10,000 square kilometres across eight zones. We are continuing to add to that and to ensure it is accessible to all Queenslanders.