



Speech By  
**Peter Russo**


**MEMBER FOR TOOHEY**

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**PRIVATE MEMBER STATEMENT**

**Brisbane, Transport Services**

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (2.00 pm): I rise today on behalf of the thousands of frustrated and forgotten residents of Brisbane, those who have been left stranded, misled and thoroughly let down by the disastrous rollout of the new bus network under the watch of the Queensland LNP Minister for Transport and the Brisbane City Council. These changes are not an improvement. They are confusing, they are poorly planned and they have made life harder for everyday commuters, not easier. Entire routes have been scrapped. Critical connections have disappeared. Suburbs have been left isolated with fewer transport options than before. This is not progress; this is regression, plain and simple. Let's be clear: roughly 75 per cent of Brisbane's bus services have been altered through cuts, rerouting, splitting or confusing rebranding. This is the single largest overhaul in over two decades and it has been handled with absolute incompetence.

We have heard the glossy spin from the Brisbane LNP Lord Mayor, Adrian Schrinner. He called the new \$1.5 billion Brisbane Metro project the most significant investment in a generation, but if this is what investment looks like, then the return is nothing short of chaos, because my office has been flooded with complaints. A father from St Joseph's College tells me his two sons now have to take two buses instead of one after the 206 route was scrapped. Students relying on the 115 route, once a vital connection from Rocklea, now find it terminates at Griffith University, adding a 20-minute delay to the commute into the city. A mother in Taringa now cycles with her 11-year-old child to Buranda train station because the 121 bus no longer takes them to Fortitude Valley. The elderly and people living with disability are now walking further, sometimes up steep hills or across unsafe roads just to find a bus stop. That is not accessibility; it is abandonment. These are not isolated incidents. These are daily realities for students, workers, families and retirees. Let's not forget that buses make up more than two-thirds of Brisbane's entire public transport usage. When you mess with the bus network, you mess with the economic engine of this city.

If the changes themselves were not bad enough, let's talk about the execution. On launch day the website crashed.

*(Time expired)*