



Speech By
Hon. Brent Mickelberg

MEMBER FOR BUDERIM

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Public Transport, Fares

 **Hon. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.20 am): Today marks 12 months since the Crisafulli government made 50-cent fares permanent right across Queensland. Since the cheapest public transport fares in Queensland's modern history were made permanent 12 months ago, more than 200 million trips have been taken across the state helping households keep more money in their pockets through real cost-of-living relief, making it easier to get to school, to work and anywhere else on our public transport network. As a result, Queenslanders have saved more than \$423 million compared to what they were paying previously under Labor.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Logan, cease your interjections.

Mr MICKELBERG: This means that someone travelling from the Pumicestone electorate to the CBD for work each day—

Mr O'Connor interjected.

Mr MICKELBERG: I will take the interjection from the member for Bonney—is saving around \$2,624 a year. Someone from Coomera or Theodore—or, indeed, Bonney—saves around \$3,527 a year, and from Nicklin it is a massive saving of \$9,039 a year. That is real cost-of-living relief. I want to acknowledge the hard work of those members in delivering this for their communities. I know the members for Pumicestone, Coomera, Theodore and Nicklin—and the member for Bonney—know just how tremendous the LNP's permanent 50-cent fares initiative has been and how it is delivering real cost-of-living relief for Queenslanders. It means that people have extra money available for when the bills arrive, it means they can afford to take the kids to the beach and it means a young Queensland working a casual job can take an extra shift. This is real and ongoing cost-of-living relief for Queenslanders and only the Crisafulli government could deliver it.

Upon becoming a minister I quickly found out that those opposite had left no ongoing funding in the budget to make 50-cent fares permanent. In fact, those opposite spent more on advertising 50-cent fares than they did on making it permanent. By contrast, the Crisafulli government is delivering genuine cost-of-living relief for Queenslanders. Our permanent 50-cent fares deliver long-term cost-of-living support, not short-term pre-election advertising campaigns.

I am pleased to advise that Queenslanders are responding to this great LNP initiative. Patronage across South-East Queensland is up 34 million trips, or 21 per cent, compared to the same period last year. That shows that more people are choosing public transport as the affordable way to travel. In South-East Queensland buses showed strong patronage growth, with 122 million trips taken, followed by trains with 54.6 million trips. It is not just the south-east that is benefitting from the LNP's permanent

50-cent fares. In regional Queensland, Translink regional bus patronage has risen by 26 per cent in Cairns, 23 per cent in Townsville and 33 per cent in Rockhampton from the start of the initiative through to the end of December last year.

While those opposite focus on gimmicks and spin, our Crisafulli government is focused on delivering real cost-of-living relief for Queenslanders. I encourage all Queenslanders to continue to make use of the LNP's permanent 50-cent fares on buses, trains, trams and ferries.