

Question on Notice

No. 830

Asked on 18 August 2004

MR LEE asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (MR LUCAS)—

QUESTION:

Will he explain the benefits to the Queensland community of TransLink?

ANSWER:

I thank the member for his question about the benefits of TransLink to the Queensland community. TransLink benefits the people of South East Queensland from Gympie North and Noosa on the Sunshine Coast to Coolangatta on the Gold Coast and west to Helidon.

For the first time, TransLink has brought together the state and local government and unified 18 transport operators to provide a single public transport network. TransLink has reduced more than 200 different ticket types down to 30, with many bus fares, integrated trips and most CityCat ferry fares decreasing in price.

Integrated ticketing now allows people to travel on participating buses, Citytrain and Brisbane City Council ferries using just one ticket across South East Queensland – across an area of 550 square kilometres. With a TransLink ticket, passengers can transfer between all TransLink services at no extra cost and explore new travel options.

The advent of the new system means that fares and concessions are standardised, providing a more equitable solution for public transport. Under TransLink all full-time tertiary students only pay half the adult fare.

Regular bus riders now enjoy more value for money with the reintroduction of weekly and monthly tickets. TransLink daily, weekly and monthly tickets offer passengers the flexibility to explore new travel options for their journeys. These tickets offer unlimited travel within the zones purchased on participating buses, QR Citytrain and Brisbane City Council ferries.

Early evidence suggests patronage since the launch of TransLink integrated ticketing has significantly increased across the network.

However, integrated ticketing is just the first stage – in the years to come South East Queenslanders will be travelling much smarter – on an upgraded rail system, on new and more frequent bus services and using a public transport smartcard that will leave the old paper ticketing system behind.

TransLink's ongoing commitment is to help travellers reach their destination more easily and more quickly by centrally planning all major routes, services and connections. TransLink's next milestone is to finalise the TransLink Network Plan, which will map out service and infrastructure improvements for South East Queensland over the next 10 years.

The TransLink network plan will provide details of an initial three-year rolling program of improvements to public transport services and infrastructure. This will include new bus services in outer regions, an increase in frequencies on key rail and bus routes throughout South East Queensland, new park and ride stations at key rail and bus interchanges and new bus priority measures.