

Question on Notice

No. 892

Asked on 19 August 2004

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the new integrated ticketing regime which was introduced recently — Will he advise how this initiative is benefiting the residents of the Glasshouse Electorate?

ANSWER:

I thank the member for her question about the benefits of TransLink for the residents of the Glasshouse electorate. TransLink integrated ticketing now allows people to travel on participating buses, Citytrain and Brisbane City Council ferries using just one ticket across South East Queensland —from Gympie North and Noosa on the Sunshine Coast to Coolangatta on the Gold Coast and west to Helidon.

With a TransLink ticket, passengers can transfer between any 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 (50 per cent) of the adult fare — previously students on the Sunshine Coast paid 75 per cent of the fare.

Residents in the Glasshouse electorate have experienced significant fare savings for train and bus travel. For example:

- Beerwah to Sunshine Plaza, Maroochydore by bus costs \$4.00 for a single adult fare compared with old fare of \$9.50 — saving \$5.50
- Students travelling by bus from Beerwah to the University of the Sunshine Coast pay only \$2.00 compared with the old fare of \$6.00 — saving \$4.00
- Landsborough by train to Brisbane now costs \$6.80 for a single adult fare compared with the old fare of \$8.80 — saving \$2.00
- Students travelling by bus from Landsborough to Nambour TAFE now pay \$1.80 compared with the old fare of \$3.30
- Landsborough by bus to Caloundra now costs \$2.80 for a single adult fare compared with the old fare of \$5.80 — saving \$3.00
- Beeburrum by train to Brisbane now costs \$6.80 for a single adult fare compared with the old fare of \$7.20.

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.

Residents in the Glasshouse electorate will have an opportunity to provide TransLink with feedback on the plan in the near future.