

Question on Notice

No. 190

Asked on 1 March 2006

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the Nudgee Electorate and Translink—

Will he provide details of capital works and operational improvements to public transport during the current term and planned for future years?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for his question-

This State Government has a significant record of achievement in public transport services and infrastructure. I must acknowledge the work of the Honourable member as a strong advocate of improved public transport for his own electorate. The Beattie Government's TransLink initiative has benefited the entire south east Queensland region, including the Nudgee Electorate, since it started in July 2004. Integrated ticketing now allows people to transfer seamlessly between train, bus and ferry services and travel across the network. In addition to integrated ticketing, improvements were made to bus stops across the region, improved timetables with a common look and feel and better marketing of services. The release of the first TransLink Network Plan (TNP) outlines the State Government's planned investment in services of around \$335 million over 10 years. The success of the TransLink initiative, particularly integrated ticketing, has led to patronage increases of 9.9 percent in 2004-05 and 12.9 percent in the first six months of 2005-06. The government will build on this success with the introduction of the smart card ticketing system due to be rolled out by the end of 2006.

In the Nudgee Electorate, the State Government has allocated \$400,000 for upgrading the Zillmere train station bus-rail interchange. This project is currently in its planning phase and is funded under the government's MetTrip initiative to improve rail infrastructure. The project is in partnership with Brisbane City Council and the adjacent Suburban Centre Improvement Project (SCIP) on Zillmere Road which will be completed by early April 2006. Other planned future works include disability access improvements at Toombul and Geebung stations. These works will improve lighting, signage and the waiting area and provide hearing aid loops and a new ticket counter. This work is part of the State Government's commitment to improve access and facilities to public transport for people with disabilities. This work is scheduled for completion by the end of 2007.

Through TransLink, the State Government has delivered a new loop service, route 308, from Toombul to the Aviation Precinct via the Direct Factory Outlet. In addition, NightLink services have been implemented on the Shorncliffe Line as part of a package of late night transport services across the region. TransLink is currently examining improvements to the NightLink services in the Nudgee electorate.

One of the main advantages of a truly integrated public transport system for south east Queensland is that improvements across the system benefit all areas. The State Government's network-wide approach to public transport in South East Queensland will continue to deliver a range of service and infrastructure improvements, some planned as far as the next 20 years.