

Question on Notice

No. 863

Asked on 25 May 2006

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

QUESTION:

With reference to Gold Coast bus services which have recently received a major boost of an additional \$6.2m per year to improve services— How will the additional funds be expended?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for his question-

The *Draft TransLink Network Plan* (TNP) outlines a four-stage plan for a restructure of the Gold Coast network. Stage 1 of the network plan involves a major enhancement to the Gold Coast Highway services and was implemented on 15 May 2006.

The service enhancements are being delivered with 25 new air conditioned, low floor buses manufactured on the Gold Coast.

A key feature of the enhancements is the introduction of the new route 700 high-frequency service, which operates around the clock along the Gold Coast Highway between Coolangatta and Southport. Route 700 is Australia's first all-night bus route with a 30 minute service frequency 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

This new route, combined with other service improvements, means buses every five minutes between 7am and 7pm Monday to Friday between Southport and Burleigh Heads.

There are also buses a minimum of every 15 minutes between Southport and Helensvale, and Burleigh Heads and Coolangatta.

Other service improvements from 15 May included:

- New timetables to ensure on-time running,
- Extra services to address over-crowding,
- A new direct Griffith University service, bypassing the busy Southport business district,
- Tripling of services from Harbour Town to Southport and Surfers Paradise,
- Doubling of services from Helensvale Town Centre to Southport,
- New routes to the popular Gold Coast theme parks,
- Improved co-ordinated bus services from the Highway corridor to train stations at Helensvale, Nerang and Robina.

The Beattie Government is also investing \$200 000 a year to provide a new bus route for Pacific Pines, where many residents currently have little access to public transport. This service is expected to commence by August.

The service improvements have injected a further one million kilometres of bus services each year into the Gold Coast network.

Stop-specific information has also been rolled-out on the Gold Coast to all 300 highway stops.

These improvements resulted from consultation on the TNP with Gold Coast public transport users and operators. TransLink will continue to consult the community about further improvements to local bus services.

The Beattie Government is backing the Gold Coast with these new services and the Gold Coast community should back the new services with their support by jumping aboard.