

Question on Notice

No. 531

Asked on Thursday 15 March 2007

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

QUESTION:

Will he provide an update on the new direct bus service to the University of Queensland and its benefits, particularly for the constituents of the Chatsworth Electorate?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for his question.

The Eleanor Schonell Bridge, colloquially known as the Green Bridge, opened on 17 December 2006.

To take advantage of the new bridge, the Queensland Government, through TransLink, introduced new bus services in Brisbane at a cost of approximately \$4.1m per annum. These are routes 109 from the city, 169 from Eight Mile Plains and route 209 from Carindale. Route 109 was introduced on 18 December 2006, followed by routes 169 and 209 on 19 February 2007. These services are fully funded by the State Government and operated by Brisbane Transport.

Route 109 runs from the city to The University of Queensland (UQ) Lakes Station via the Eleanor Schonell Bridge. This service runs every 8 – 10 minutes during university peaks and every 10 -15 minutes off-peak on weekdays and every 20 minutes on weekends. This equates to 767 trips each week. Passengers from the city save about three minutes travel time using route 109 across the new bridge, compared to existing services on Coronation Drive.

Route 209 runs from the Carindale Interchange to UQ via the Eleanor Schonell Bridge. This service operates every 15 minutes on weekdays and 30 minutes on weekends all year round. This equates to 518 trips each week. This service will benefit passengers in Chatsworth, Greenslopes, South Brisbane and Indooroopilly. Passengers on this service will save about 20 minutes each trip, as passengers can now travel directly, avoiding the CBD and the need to interchange.

Route 169 runs from Eight Mile Plains Busway station to UQ via the Eleanor Schonell Bridge. This service operates every 10 minutes during peak periods, 15 minutes off-peak weekdays and 30 minutes on weekends all year round. This equates to 568 trips each week. This service also benefits passengers in Greenslopes, South Brisbane, Indooroopilly, Mansfield and Mt Gravatt. Passengers on this service will save about 20 minutes each trip, as passengers can now travel directly, avoiding the CBD and the need to interchange.

Lectures started at UQ St Lucia campus on 26 February 2007. In the second week of lectures, TransLink carried 37,804 passengers to UQ on the three Eleanor Schonell Bridge services. This is an average of 8,000 passengers per day, with a peak of 9,500 passengers on the busiest day. In the past, the first day of lectures has been the peak patronage for the year with patronage dropping by about 13% over the year. This hasn't been the case with the Eleanor Schonell Bridge services and bus patronage continues to increase.

As a result of the popularity of the services, TransLink provided an additional morning service on each route travelling towards UQ, departing their respective origins at 7:05am. Route 209 departs at 7.00am. These additional services commenced on 5 March 2007 at an additional cost of \$105 000.

In addition to this, from Monday, 26 March 2007 sweeper services have been operating during peak times on routes 109 and 169. These services will add extra capacity during the busiest periods for these routes.

Five short trip sweepers will operate on route 169 from Griffith University to collect passengers being left behind due to services filling up at Eight Mile Plains and Garden City. Five sweepers will operate from the City on route 109. The sweeper services will only operate during university semesters.

TransLink have also introduced an additional scheduled trip that is being trialled on route 169, departing Eight Mile Plains at 6.55am. This was also implemented on 26 March 2007.

This is another example of how the Queensland Government is improving public transport in South East Queensland under TransLink. All the additional services are fully funded by the State Government. The Brisbane City Council operates the services but has not provided funding for them.