

Question on Notice

No. 579

Asked on Tuesday 17 April 2007

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the NightLink services provided by TransLink, which have proven very successful—

Will he advise residents in the electorate of Stafford about services which assist late night travellers from the Brisbane CBD using buses, trains and taxis?

ANSWER:

NightLink transport services commenced operation on 2 December 2005 as part of the Beattie Government's Brisbane City Safety Action Plan. This plan aims to reduce the occurrence of incidents involving alcohol related aggression that had been occurring in Brisbane's inner city entertainment precincts. The objective of NightLink transport services is to move revellers quickly and safely out of these precincts when they wish to leave.

The residents of Stafford who may opt to travel home by taxi after a very late night out in the city are able to access a NightLink FlatFare taxi. NightLink FlatFare taxi services are provided from three ranks in the Brisbane Central Business District (Elizabeth, Queen and Eagle Streets) and one rank in Fortitude Valley (Warner Street). The ranks operate from midnight to 5:00am on Saturday and Sunday mornings.

NightLink FlatFare taxi ranks offer high levels of safety and security for passengers and taxi drivers. These ranks are staffed by rank marshals and security guards through funding provided by the Beattie Government. Furthermore all NightLink FlatFare taxi ranks are provided with good lighting and are monitored by security cameras.

Passengers at NightLink FlatFare taxi ranks are encouraged by rank marshals to travel in groups in maxi taxis for a set fare. These fares are determined against a zonal system and are required to be paid up front. The cost of the fare will be less than the normal equivalent taxi fare. A secondary benefit from the payment of up front fares is that it negates the risk of fare evasion by inebriated travellers.

The drivers of maxi taxis are encouraged to provide services from the NightLink FlatFare taxi ranks because of the benefits of being paid before a journey begins and further because the rank supervisors organise waiting passengers and deter unruly behaviour.

A couple who chose to travel home to Stafford from the Brisbane CBD by a standard taxi could expect to pay a fare of about \$23.00. However, if this couple chose to share a NightLink FlatFare taxi with other passengers, they would pay a FlatFare of approximately \$14.00.

NightLink FlatFare taxi services have proven to be very successful since commencement having carried over 70 000 passengers. In particular, the Warner Street NightLink FlatFare

taxi rank has become very popular; with over 34 000 late night passengers being served from this one rank.

The success of the NightLink ranks has been achieved through the co-operation of Queensland Transport, the Taxi Council of Queensland, Black & White Cabs (Brisbane), Yellow Cabs (Brisbane) and very importantly, the taxi industry staff who work as rank marshals and Brisbane taxi drivers.

Since the introduction of NightLink on December 2, 2005, NightLink transport services have carried over 200,000 travelers home safely. Patronage figures to date are:

Buses	144,000
Rail	30,000
Flatfare Taxis	68,000

There are now 19 NightLink services operating across the network.

Furthermore, TransLink's local NightLink bus service – N330 – is among the top five most patronised NightLink routes. More than 13,100 commuters have used the service since it launched in December 2005.

Route N330 operates inbound from Normanby to Fortitude Valley via the CBD and outbound from Fortitude Valley to Bracken Ridge via the CBD and Chermide.

NightLink bus services drop passengers off anywhere along the route where it is safe for the driver to stop.

All NightLink bus services use an easy-to-remember clock face timetable. The N330 bus service to Bracken Ridge always departs from the bus stop on Warner Street at five minutes past the hour at 1.05am; 2.05am; 3.05am; 4.05am and 5.05am.

Timetable information for the NightLink Chermide service and other NightLink services are available online at www.translink.com.au/nightlink or by calling TransLink on 13 12 30. NightLink timetables can also be sent to your mobile phone via the website.