

Question on Notice

No. 782

Asked on 24 May 2007

MR JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (MR LUCAS) –

QUESTION:

With reference to new bus services subsidised by Queensland Transport for each year since 2004 (reported separately) -

- (1) How many new bus services have been subsidised by Queensland Transport?
- (2) For each new bus service what level of funding did each service attract (reported separately)?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for his question.

South East Queensland

- (1) The Beattie Government has presided over a revolution in public transport with TransLink.

Beattie Government Public Transport Revolution

Public Transport Services

Year	Expenditure	Patronage
1997/98 (National/Liberal)	\$365 m	103 million journeys
2006/07 (projected) (Beattie Labor)	\$733 m (\$507 million net of revenue)	162 million journeys
Increase	\$368 m 101% (\$142 million net of revenue – 39%)	59 million 57%

Public Transport Infrastructure

Year	Fixed Capital Expenditure*
1997/98	\$44m
2006/07	\$309m
Increase	\$265 million – 602%

* note – does not include rail investment

The current State budget commits an additional \$24m each year through for the TransLink Network Plan (TNP) to further improve urban bus services in South East Queensland (SEQ).

Since the introduction of TransLink in 2004-05 – 2007-08 the Queensland Government has committed an additional \$90m each year in funding for urban bus services in SEQ.

A list of specific TransLink service changes for the period July 2004 to June 2007 is set out in the attached table. (Attachment 1) Passengers are voting with their feet in supporting new and improved services. Bus patronage has increased by approximately 40% since TransLink commenced and over 500 new buses have entered service to date.

Sub Region	Patronage %
Brisbane City	34%
Caboolture, Pine Rivers, Redcliffe	65%
Ipswich	91%
Redlands	60%
Gold Coast	36%
Sunshine Coast	88%
Logan, Park Ridge	117%

(2) Since 2004-05, nearly \$56m per year worth of service enhancements have been introduced. In 2006-07, investment across the seven subregions making up the TransLink network to date is as follows:

Subregion	Additional Funding (pa)
Brisbane City	\$21.3m
Caboolture, Pine Rivers, Redcliffe	\$2.4m
Ipswich	\$4.4m
Redlands	\$3.7m
Gold Coast	\$7.5m
Sunshine Coast	\$8.1m
Logan, Park Ridge	\$8.4m

The balance of the new service initiatives will be rolled out in 2007-08. This will include over \$10m in new services for Brisbane, Gold Coast, Northern and Southern subregions plus an allocation in the 2007-08 budget of the \$24m for the TNP.

This will be allocated by TransLink on a prioritised basis with a focus on addressing overcrowding issues on key routes.

The cost of service initiatives in SEQ since July 2006 is as follows.

- In July 2006, the State Government funded \$2.88m per annum worth of bus services to address overcrowding in Redlands, Logan and Brisbane.
- A \$3.5m per annum package of service improvements commenced in Brisbane on 23 October 2006, including the Moggill 444 BUZ.
- The government, through TransLink spent a further \$975,000 per annum on 18 December 2006 when the new Eleanor Schonell Bridge services commenced.
- In November 2006, the government through TransLink spent \$300,000 per annum on service improvements in Ipswich to provide a higher level of service reliability and connectivity.

- A further \$900,000 per annum was spent in the Sunshine Coast in November 2006 for the provision of two new services to cater for the opening of a new retail precinct, service the Sunshine Coast Private Hospital and provide services to areas that previously did not have access to bus services.
- On 19 February 2007, TransLink implemented a further \$3.1m per annum of bus service improvements to provide an additional 1,336 trips each week in Brisbane. In total about \$12m will be spent improving bus services for Brisbane between July 2006 and July 2007, with a \$4m package of service improvements planned for 23 July 2007.
- In March 2007, TransLink spent a further \$1.5m per annum on services in Ipswich to cater for the opening of two new retail precincts and to cater for an increase in student numbers to Education City at Springfield.
- Also in the month of March 2007, TransLink spent approximately \$300,000 per annum implementing weekend and public holiday services in the Bray Park, Lawnton, Joyner and Strathpine areas.
- In April 2007, TransLink spent approximately \$1m per annum to provide additional services to cater for existing and immediate future demand for extra services from Logan to the Brisbane CBD.

New Long Distance Bus Services

The Queensland Government provides about \$2.4m in subsidy for 17 rural and remote long distance bus routes throughout the State, supporting travel by more than 117 000 passengers at an average subsidy for each passenger of around \$21. This ensures access to essential services in larger population centres for more than 50 communities.

Service	Operator	Commence ment date	2005/06 Subsidy (excl GST)	Est. 2006/07 Subsidy (excl GST)	Subsidy per passenger
Mundubbera - Bundaberg	Jena Boran	September 05	\$5 290*	\$9 500	\$20.65
Biloela - Maryborough	Callide Coaches	May 06	\$19 324*	\$118 500	\$131.67
Eidsvold - Bundaberg	Eidsvold Shire Council	May 06	\$1 512*	\$14 000	\$63.64
Monto - Ceratodus	G & S Schultz	May 06	\$375*	\$5 000	NA

* NB: not a full financial year of data.

Since 2004, QT has also introduced support for a number of existing long distance bus services with viability concerns:

Service	Operator	Commencement date	2005/06 Subsidy (exc GST)	Est. 2006/07 Subsidy (exc GST)	Subsidy per passenger
Cooktown - Cairns (inland)	Country Road Coaches	July 2004	\$18 722	\$18 500	\$6.98

Cooktown - Cairns (coastal)	Country Road Coaches	July 2004	\$22 547	\$22 000	\$13.75
Karumba - Cairns	Trans North	May 2005	\$101 083*	\$128 500	\$71.39

* NB: not a full financial year of data.

New Services in Urban Areas

The Government provides a significant funding support for the provision of urban bus services across regional Queensland. It is estimated that in 2006-07 funding support will total \$26m and will have carried close to 10 million fare paying passengers.

The Government is also introducing an exciting new initiative for passenger transport services in regional Queensland called *qconnect*. The major initiatives currently being implemented under *qconnect* are:

- standardising bus fares to make them more equitable with South East Queensland;
- wheelchair accessible taxis in regional Queensland; and;
- introduction of secure taxi ranks in regional areas.

\$12.1m has been committed to introduce standardised bus fares and zones in regional towns and cities. This will see some significant reductions in bus fares, particularly the longer distance fares. It will also allow greater integration between services and make bus travel easier and seamless.

Financial Year	Service Improvements	Cost	Operator	Service Contract
2003/04				
Mt Tamborine – Beenleigh (August 2003)	Flexible service utilising taxis introduced in place of buses	\$57 000 (est. p.a.)	Yellow Taxi	Mt Tamborine – Beenleigh Village to Town
Pittsworth – Toowoomba (July 2003)	New service on Mondays and Wednesdays	\$19 421 (est. p.a.)	Hubbard's Bus Service	Pittsworth – Toowoomba Village to Town

2004/05				
Highfields – Toowoomba (August 2004)	New local service in Highfields connecting with Crows Nest – Toowoomba service	\$72 336 (est. p.a.)	Kynoch Coaches	Crows Nest – Toowoomba Village to Town
Maryborough –	Improvements to	\$139 203 (est.	Wide Bay	Maryborough –

Hervey Bay (August 2004)	Route 5 Maryborough – Hervey service	p.a.)	Transit	Hervey Bay
Maryborough (November 2004)	Saturday services introduced on all routes (Rts 1, 2, 3 & 4)	\$90 437 (est. p.a.)	Wide Bay Transit	Bundaberg, Bundaberg - Bargara
Bundaberg (November 2004)	Additional journeys introduced Bundaberg – Bargara (Rte 4). Introduction of Saturday services on all routes (Rts 1, 2, 3 & 4)	\$85 047 (est. p.a.)	Duffy's Coaches & City & Coast Buses	Bundaberg, Bundaberg - Bargara
Townsville (December 2004)	New services being Routes 8, 9, & 1x.	\$826 483 (est p.a.)	Transit Australia	Townsville
Burrum Heads – Hervey Bay (March 2005)	New service operating daily.	\$38 536 (est. p.a.)	Bay Bus & Coach	Burrum Heads to Hervey Bay Village to Town
Cairns (April 2005)	New services being Routes 3, 11, 12 & 13; extension of Route 2a; introduction of night services to Mooroobool; and, City Loop.	\$1 333 016 (est. p.a.)	Transit Australia	Cairns
Townsville (April 2005)	New route 10 introduced	\$151 033 (est. p.a.)		
Mackay (April 2005)	Service improvements on weekdays (Rts 1, 2, 3, 6, 5) and introduction of limited Saturday services (Rts 1,	\$260 122 (est. p.a.)	Mackay Transit Coaches	Mackay

	2, 3, 4A, 5, 6, 7, 8 & 12)			
2005/06				
Bundaberg (September 2005)	Bundaberg – Bargara improved to hourly frequency on weekdays with improvements on Saturdays (Rte 4)	\$132 683 (est. p.a.)	Duffy's Coaches & City & Coast Buses	Bundaberg, Bundaberg - Bargara
Toowoomba (July 2005)	New Flexible Transport service - Kango introduced.	\$43 036 (est. p.a.)	Transit Australia	Toowoomba
Toowoomba (June 2006)	Improvement of service levels on all routes to hourly (Rts 1, 2, 4, 5 & 6).	\$214 028 (est. p.a.)	Transit Australia	Toowoomba
Maryborough – Hervey Bay (March 2007)	Improvement of Hervey Bay services (Rts 16, 17, 18 & 5)	\$186 865 (est. p.a.)	Wide Bay Transit	Maryborough – Hervey Bay
Maryborough – Hervey (2007)	New Flexible service - Point Vernon.	\$66 624 (est. p.a.)	Wide Bay Transit	Maryborough – Hervey Bay

Notes:

New services: a new route introduced to the network.

Service Improvements: increases in frequency, introduction of Saturday, increases in the hours of service provided by existing routes.

Costs: Costs stated are the annual recurrent costs of introducing new routes or improving service levels. These costs will vary over time as patronage numbers and farebox revenue increase or decrease.

Service Changes June 2004 - June 2007

Implementation Date	Description	TransLink Region
19 July 2004	New university route 607	Sunshine Coast
26 July 2004	Additional services for route 161, minor timetable change or route changes to routes 110, 113,116, 123,131,185,882, 887,192,200	Brisbane West
31 July 2004	Ipswich network restructure stage 1 (routes 8 and 9)	Western
6 September 2004	Minor timing changes to routes 1, 2 3, 8 and 14	Eastern
12 September 2004	Major network restructure	Sunshine Coast
13 September 2004	New route 257 (Cleveland Station to Cleveland Point)	Eastern
4 October 2004	Minor timetable adjustments for routes 302,325, 328,335, 339, 370, 390; terminus relocated for route 195	Brisbane North
18 October 2004	Minor timetable changes to Airtrain and all other lines	SEQ
18 October 2004	Minor timetable changes to routes 600, 601,620,616,617,610	Sunshine Coast
8 November 2004	New BUZ 150 and new Rocket 186; new stops for routes 141, 142, 181 extra 156 services; rerouted 152, 230, 231,232, & 831; and minor timetable changes to routes 120,133, 141, 155,222 & 232, 223, 224, 225, 598, 599	Brisbane
29 November 2004	Network restructure stage 2 (routes 508, 509, 507, 517,527, 504, 505)	Western
6 December 2004	Minor timetable change to City Ferry services	Brisbane
13 December 2004	New route 738 (former route 18B)	Gold Coast
10, 11,17,18 December 2004	pre-Xmas late night servcies	Brisbane
31 December 2005	extra New Year's Eve services	SEQ
26 December 2004 - 9 January 2005	Free Noosa services (routes 625, 626, 627, 628 and 629	Sunshine Coast
17 January 2005	Minor timetable change to routes 630, 631, 605 and 615	Sunshine Coast
24 January 2005	Minor timetable change to routes 2, 4, 6 and 9	Eastern
24 January 2005	Minor timetable changes to routes 123,135, 156, 161,183, 198, 204, 325, 326, 327, 346, 353, 356, 362, 379, 382, 383, 411, 427, 453, 455, 456, 462, 475 and City Loop	Brisbane
7 February 2005	Minor timetable change to routes 606 and 607	Sunshine Coast
14 February 2005	Minor timetable change and route changes to routes 367, 907, 908, 917, 973, 986	Brisbane
25 March 2005	Free Noosa shuttle (route 629)	Sunshine Coast
28 March 2005	Network restructure stage 1 (new routes 681 and 682)	Northern
4 April 2005	New trial Samford route 399	Brisbane
18 April 2005	Network restructure stage 3 (routes 508, 509, 507, 517, 527,504, 505, 506, 516, 502, 503, 510, 500, 511, 521, 530, 522, 483)	Western
18 April 2005	New routes 162 and 304 trial; upgarde rotue 200 to BUZ; additinoal services to rotues 130 BUZ, 142, 460; minor timetable and route changes to routes 186, 189, 2307, 303; discontinuation of route 205	Brisbane
9 May 2005	Minor timetable changes to routes 190, 191, 193, 194 & 195; 967 and 968; additional services for routes 338	Brisbane
14 June 2005	Minor timetable adjustments to routes 170, 171, 176 & 178	Brisbane
20 June 2005	Bus stop changes to routs 370 and 379	Brisbane
20 June 2005	Network restructure stage 2	Northern
27 June 2005	Major network restructure	Southern
1 August 2005	Eastern Region Stage 1 (Mt Gravatt Bus Service)	Eastern
5 September 2005	Surfside stage 1A Sat TT for routes 6, 6A, 7, 8, 12 & 25 (GCC funded weekend services)	Gold Coast
5 September 2005	Minor changes to routes 140, 141, and 142 to accommodate new Greenbank RSL park n' ride + shuttle bus	Southern
11 September 2005	Surfside stage 1B extra services for route 17 to be renumbered to route 737 (GCC funded weekend services)	Gold Coast
3 October 2005	Extend Samford trial until Xmas (route 399) and adjust timetable	Brisbane
10 October 2005	Eastern region stage 3 (MGBS 260 and 261 improvements) + launch of new buses	Eastern

Implementation Date	Description	TransLink Region
October 2005	Expand peak services for BUZ 130, 150 and 200, new 308 to DFO + minor adjustments to other routes	Brisbane

Implementation Date	Description	TransLink Region
23 October 2005	LCBS and BT swap stop on Elizabeth st (stops 82 and 83)	Brisbane
7 November 2005	occasional trips to Bethania on route 562	Southern
14 November 2005	new route 557, additional pm peak trips on 561 and 573	Southern
28 November 2005	All lines + Helidon railbus service	SEQ
11 December 2005	Sunbus	Sunshine Coast
12 December 2005	Eastern region stage 3 (Connex)	Eastern
12 December 2005	Divert Kelvin Grove routes 351, 357, 359, 390 into Normanby busway station full time. Change stops at RBH for 330, 333, 340 and 376. Valley bound stops at RBH.	Brisbane
19 December 2005	new routes 725 (Upper Coomera - Beenleigh) and 748 (Nerang – Robina – Bond)	Gold Coast
19 December 2005	Ipswich stage 4	Western
2 Dec – May 06 (TBC)	Trial of all night bus and train services on Fri and Sat – routes 111, 190, 200, 333, 385, 412 and all lines except Doomben, GC and SC.	Brisbane
4 January 2006	399 Brisbane Bus Lines extension	Brisbane North
23 January 2006	(a) remove the 142 shuttle service between Grand Plaza and the RSL(b) divert the inbound 140 service so that it does not serve Grand Plaza at all(c) divert the outbound 140 service so that it travels direct to the RSL, then terminates at Grand Plaza	Brisbane
23 January 2006	Hornibrook Bus Lines 680 – truncate at Chermside in the off-peak	Northern
20 February 2006	Brisbane Transport Aspley BUZ 345 and divert routes 325 and 345 into Normanby station full time.	Brisbane
20 February 2006	New 199 BUZ and consolidation of other routes in the 190 series	Brisbane
20 February 2006	New 393 (Bulimba- Bowen Hills, INB, Roma St)	Brisbane
27 February 2006	Ipswich stage 5 – routes 522 and 530	Western
6 March 2006	New Surfside route TX5	Gold Coast
3 April 2006	revised 399 timetable to improve rail connections	Brisbane North
10 April 2006	New CityCat timetable	Brisbane Central
14 – 17 April 2006	Free Noosa services	Sunshine Coast
18 April 2006	New route 567	Gold Coast
15 May 2006	Changes to Gold Coast highway routes and routes 3 and 10 and theme parks	Gold Coast
29 May 2006	major changes to CBD bus stops	Brisbane
17-July-2006	Eastern region tinkering (Veolia) (18 services)	Eastern
24-July-2006	Extra BT services to resolve over crowded services (Routes 100, 162, 150, 200, 305, 412, 300, 301, 306, 331, 341, 350, 359, 470)	Brisbane
14-August-2006	Extra services for over crowding in Logan	Southern
26-August-2006	Divert route due to closure of Campbell St due to construction of NSBT	Brisbane North
26-August-2006	NightLink stage 2	Brisbane, Southern, Eastern, Western, Northern
12-October-2006	Extension of route 628 to service Noosa Business Centre	Sunshine Coast
15-October-2006	Due to public feedback route 602 has been diverted to a new route	Sunshine Coast
23-October-2006	Introduce new high-frequency 444 service and replace existing route 441	Brisbane West
23 October 2006	Provide additional morning peak-period services to a 5-minute frequency to increase capacity (133)	Brisbane South
23 October 2006	Introduce new peak-period Rocket to accommodate population growth in outer catchment area and address overcrowding on 150 corridor (153)	Brisbane South
23-October-2006	Upgrade 199 peak srvcies and reduce 393 peak services to 15 min frequency (199/399)	Brisbane North
23-October-2006	Extend PM peak services to mid-evening due to heavy loadings (130)	Brisbane South
23-October-2006	Provide extra AM peak short-tripper services (390)	Brisbane North

Implementation Date	Description	TransLink Region
23 October 2006	Adjust timetables to reflect on-road traffic conditions and therefore improve on-time running (104, 112,113, 114, 117, 119, 120, 130, 150, 162, 174, 184, 185, 206, 222, 232, 320, 889, 899)	Brisbane South and East
13-November-2006	Western region adjustments - stage 5 (Westside) Restructure services to improve on-time running and extend services into new developing areas	Western
27 November 2006	Introduction of the 629 route on the SC	Sunshine Coast
11-December-2006	Introduction of 619 loop route, with hourly services, 5 days a week - 353,356	Sunshine Coast
November 2006	Divert routes to account for works associated with Hamilton Rd extension	Brisbane North
November 2006	Move some BT services to Brisbane Square (new BAC)	Brisbane Central
4 December 2006	Amend 6:30am service on route 631 and provide two additional services on route 630	Sunshine Coast
16 December 2006	Introduction of weekend services on Caboolture Buslines route 652	Northern
18 December 2006	Introduce new high frequency cross-town route using Green Bridge (109, 407)	Brisbane South
26 January 2007	Introduction of weekend services in Eagleby / Beenleigh areas	Southern
29 January 2007	Partial implementation of new LCBS route 569	Southern
19 February 2007	Introduce new link route to service subdivisions at Seventeen Mile Rocks and River Park	Brisbane West
19 February 2007	Extend 130 to Beaudesert Rd (population growth)	Brisbane South
19 February 2007	Introduce new cross-town route using Green Bridge (169)	Brisbane South
19 February 2007	Introduce new cross-town route using Green Bridge	Brisbane East
19 February 2007	Increase service frequency to less than 10 minutes in peak period (209)	Brisbane North
19 February 2007	Increase frequency of services (345)	Brisbane North
19 February 2007	New Rocket - Parkinson via SEB/Gateway (138)	Brisbane South
15 March 2007	Western region adjustments - stage 6 (Westside) (515, 520, 523, 522, 530, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 516, 517, 527) Restructure services to improve on-time running and extend services into new developing areas	Western
24 March 2007	Introduction of weekend services to inland services on Gold Coast	Gold Coast
31 March 2007	Provide an hourly Saturday timetable on routes 671,672, 673,& 674	Northern
23 April 2007	Introduction of various peak period service enhancements	Southern
April 2007	Additional trips added to 133	Brisbane South
	Provide additional peak period services to cater for population growth (231, 236)	Brisbane East
	New Rocket - Forest Lake via SEB/Gateway/Logan (118)	Brisbane South
14 May 2007	Introduction of new route 243. Additional morning service to route 255 and minor amendment to last running service due to rail time changes on the 18 June 07.	Eastern
19 May 2007	Extension of N250 to include Victoria Point	Eastern
19 May 2007	Minor amendment to N200 and N226	Brisbane
4 June 2007	Minor route change to 607 to include Home Central on Kawana Way	Sunshine Coast