

Question on Notice

No. 1868

Asked on Thursday 27 November 2008

MRS ATTWOOD ASKED THE MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT, TRADE, EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (MR MICKEL) —

QUESTION:

In relation to my continued request to increase bus and rail services in the Mt Ommaney Electorate, what is the status in relation to the *TransLink Network Plan*?

ANSWER:

I am advised it is anticipated that the revised *TransLink Network Plan* will be launched in early 2009. The plan includes a fully funded, four year program for public transport services and infrastructure from 2008/09 to 2011/12 and a ten year plan for the public transport system in South East Queensland.

Rail passenger demand has increased considerably across South East Queensland during the peak periods. To address this growth, the State Government, through TransLink, is spending approximately \$586 million to build 44 new three carriage trains and new stabling facilities. Carriages are currently under construction in Maryborough and the first set was deployed on the Gold Coast line in May 2007. The balance will be delivered at regular intervals with full rollout by 2010.

In June 2008 the State Government reinforced their commitment by including \$972 million in the *South East Queensland Infrastructure Plan and Program (2008 – 2026)* for 78 three carriage trains. This funding represents the contribution for the balance of the 44 three carriage trains planned, and funding for an additional 58 three carriage trains to be delivered after 2010. Full delivery of the 102 three carriage trains will increase the size of the fleet by almost 70% - or around 23 000 additional seats.

Rail timetable improvements are planned for the Ipswich and Caboolture lines in early 2009, with associated changes on other lines. These rail service improvements will utilise additional rail rollingstock to provide greater levels of service in peak periods.

In addition, TransLink has advised that services will be further enhanced in your electorate with the completion of Queensland Transport's major infrastructure projects such as the track duplication between Corinda and Darra and the upgrades of Oxley and Darra railway station and the new Springfield rail corridor.

Construction for the Corinda to Darra Third Track project is well underway with commuters being able to benefit from the opening of the upgraded Oxley Railway Station in mid December 2008. This will deliver an additional 70 parking spaces and a new commuter platform on the Ardoyne Road side of the station.

The remainder of the project being funded by the South East Queensland Infrastructure Plan and Program is on schedule to be completed by 2010. This includes the construction of a third passenger track, a fourth freight only track and an upgrade of Darra Railway Station. The completion of this project will increase rail capacity and improve service reliability as well as significantly improving the amenity of these stations.