

Question on Notice
No. 435
Asked on 13 March 2008

MR STEVENS asked the Premier (MS BLIGH) -

QUESTION:

With reference to the new Skilled Park Stadium at Robina and with local residents in the vicinity of the stadium having restricted access to their properties on game nights—

What is the State Government going to do to address the parking problems at Skilled Stadium?

ANSWER:

I am pleased to announce that the first ever NRL match to be played at Skilled Park on 14 March 2008 was a huge success. A crowd of 26,974 cheered the Gold Coast Titans to an impressive victory over the North Queensland Cowboys.

This was the third major event to be held at the new \$160 million venue since the venue was officially opened on 17 February 2008 in front of more than 22,000 patrons at the Queensland Government's People's Day. On 1 March 2008, more than 14,000 patrons attended the trial match between the Titans and the Tigers.

All of these events have been successful, with the venue itself being acclaimed by sports governing bodies, players and fans alike as the best regional stadium in the country. Many have said it is up there with the best stadia of similar size in the world. A key contributor to the success of these venues has been the use of public transport by members of the public.

During the Titans versus Cowboys game, 74% of patrons used public transport to attend the event while 82% of patrons used public transport to leave the precinct after the match. Patrons using train services were cleared within 30 minutes of the match concluding and bus patrons cleared within 75 minutes.

This is in addition to more than 70% of patrons at the People's Day and the trial match who used public transport to arrive and depart from the events. Following the trial match patrons cleared the stadium precinct within 45 minutes of the full time siren. This was a particularly good result as many fans remained in the venue to see the Titans presented with the inaugural Larry Corowa Shield.

The Gold Coast Bulletin observed that "Fans arrived and left smoothly and quickly. Gold Coasters finally discovered that a car is not an essential item at the football. The Carrara post-match log-jam was a memory."

The people of the Gold Coast understand that the stadium's traffic management plan protects the amenity of residents who live nearby, while enabling patrons to get into and out of Skilled Park in an efficient and orderly manner. All residents should be able to access their properties at any time the stadium is in operation. If the Honourable Member knows of specific instances where this has not been the case, he should bring them immediately to the attention of the Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Sport.

The land upon which the stadium has been built was provided by the Gold Coast City Council. One of the key reasons why the Council selected this site was its proximity to transport infrastructure.

Contemporary best practice in respect of moving patrons to and from major events is to limit the use of private vehicles in the stadium precinct as occurs at Brisbane's Suncorp Stadium, Sydney's Olympic Stadium and London's Emirates Stadium.

Since the redeveloped Suncorp Stadium opened in 2003, on average more than 85% of patrons who visit the venue arrive and depart via public transport, which results in clearance times of no more than 60 minutes.

The Transport Management Plan for Skilled Park has been built upon the same model, which is designed to move fans to and from events in the same efficient manner, as occurs at venues such as Suncorp Stadium and the Gabba.

Public transport remains the best way to arrive and depart from events at Skilled Park and this is the message that the public is embracing.