

Question on Notice

No. 1473

Asked on Thursday 8 October 2009

MR MCLINDON ASKED THE MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT (MS NOLAN) —

QUESTION:

Will the Minister outline any future plans for TransLink bus services that provide patronage for the Beaudesert - Jimboomba - Browns Plains route?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Beaudesert for the question.

The state government, through the TransLink Transit Authority, is committed to providing fair and equitable access to public transport but currently, it is not possible to provide transport services to all areas of South East Queensland. This is particularly the case in low-density and semi-rural regions as they tend to be significantly more expensive to service, and demand is generally inadequate to justify regular scheduled services.

The TransLink network spans from Noosa on the Sunshine Coast to Coolangatta on the Gold Coast and west to Helidon. Requests for services in all areas of the TransLink network must be considered and prioritised against the competing needs of the network.

TransLink assesses the need for new bus routes through a number of means. These include tracking development applications and using the most recent Census data to calculate population densities by determining the average number of dwellings per hectare. Once population densities reach seven dwellings per hectare, with a population within the new urban area of 7500 residents, TransLink will consider the viability and demand for the provision of scheduled urban bus services.

According to the most recent available Census data, the average number of dwellings per hectare is as follows:

Jimboomba - 2.7	Canungra - 6.3
Beaudesert - 2	Boonah - 0.4

TransLink will continue to monitor the population density and developments in the Beaudesert region and through an annual review process, adjust services where necessary to meet the needs of the region.

Currently, route 540 provides services in each direction linking Beaudesert and Jimboomba to Browns Plains and on to the Brisbane CBD.

On average route 540 picks up 57 passengers per day at all stops between Park Ridge shopping centre and Beaudesert, this equates to less than ten passengers per trip. The bus travels approximately 37km from Park Ridge shopping centre to Beaudesert which is a relatively long distance for a small number of passengers. Competing priorities for limited funding within the TransLink network means that these patronage figures and the current residential densities of this region, mean that additional bus services are not able to be justified at this stage.

The new park n' ride facility just off the Mt Lindesay Highway at Park Ridge is expected to be operational in mid 2010. The intended catchment of this park 'n' ride is for residents south of Park Ridge including Jimboomba and Beaudesert. This facility will create increased options for new or varied services including some peak express services from this facility to the Brisbane CBD.