

Question on Notice

No. 17

Asked on Tuesday, 11 February 2014

DR DOUGLAS asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (MR EMERSON)—

QUESTION:

With reference to public bus services introduced on 20 January 2014—

Will the Minister advise what consideration is being given to the extension of hours and weekend services for routes 746 and 749, in view of the public outcry against these second-rate services?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Gaven for the question.

Changes to the span of hours for bus routes 746 and 749 were made to reflect demand. The very low patronage recorded on these services made them unsustainable due to the significant cost to taxpayers. Former route 21 that operated to the Nerang West area generated less than seven passengers per trip. On weekends passenger boardings were less than two passenger boardings per trip for some services.

While there are no plans to amend these changes further at this time, I encourage Dr Douglas' constituents to take advantage of the increased frequency of a number of other services which connect Nerang to key centres including Griffith University, Gold Coast University Hospital, Southport, Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach. This frequency increase has greatly improved weekdays and weekend services, with many routes providing a consistent half hourly or hourly frequency throughout the day. Additionally, the Nerang area has benefitted from the introduction of the new bus route 739 which services Griffith University and Gold Coast University Hospital.

While there are no plans to increase services for routes 746 and 749 at this time, TransLink will continue to monitor the performance of the routes to ensure that they are providing an efficient and reliable service that meets the needs of the broader community.