



**Queensland
Government**

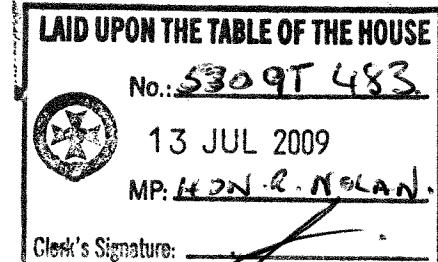
Hon Rachel Nolan MP
Member for Ipswich

Minister for Transport

Our ref: MC42090

10 JUL 2009

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000



Dear Mr Laurie *Neil*

I refer to a petition lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Mr Wayne Wendt MP, Member for Ipswich West on 20 May 2009 regarding subsidy of the local bus services through Karana Downs, Mt Crosby, Anstead, Karalee and Chuwar.

The Queensland Government, through the TransLink Transit Authority, is committed to providing fair and equitable access to public transport within South East Queensland. The TransLink network spans from Noosa on the Sunshine Coast to Coolangatta on the Gold Coast and west to Helidon. Due to the costs associated with operating such a vast network, requests for new services are considered on a priority basis.

TransLink assesses the need for the new bus routes through a number of means including tracking development applications and using Census data to calculate population densities. This approach is taken in the interest of ensuring that services are well patronised and represent value for money. Once population densities reach seven dwellings per hectare, the authority will consider the viability and demand for the provision of scheduled urban bus services. According to the most recently available Census data, the average number of dwellings per hectare in Anstead, Mount Crosby, Karana Downs, Chuwar and Karalee is approximately 1.6 dwellings per hectare.

Furthermore, at my request, TransLink has recently conducted investigations at two points along the route to determine passenger numbers using the current CityLink service. Out of the 16 services observed over two separate days, only nine passengers made use of the buses.

Based on this information, the provision of a TransLink bus service is not considered viable at this time due to the expected low demand in comparison to other priorities across the network.

In low-density areas, local councils often fill the gaps in scheduled public transport services by providing more personalised forms of public transport.

Brisbane City Council operates a personalised public transport service in the Karana Downs area. Services operate on a loop basis, Monday to Saturday, except public holidays. The first trip leaves from Mt Crosby Road past Tanderra Way, then via an anti-clockwise loop to College Road, Tanderra Way, Mt Crosby Road, Kangaroo Gully Road, Moggill State School to the Bellbowrie bus stop, then back to Karana Downs. Subsequent trips are run on a continuous loop basis.

In the afternoon, the route is the same as the morning, but the first few afternoon trips wait at the Moggill State School, Monday to Friday. The later afternoon services wait near the Bellbowrie bus stop for travellers from routes 443 (Rocket) and 444 (BUZ).

TransLink recognises that as the population density in Karalee, Chuwar, Mount Crosby, Karana Downs and Anstead continues to increase there may be sufficient demand to justify regular scheduled public transport services in the area in the future.

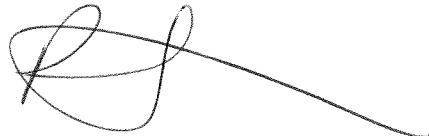
TransLink reviews all services as part of the annual review of the *TransLink Network Plan* and considers suggestions for additional services as part of this process. Petitioners can be assured that future services to Anstead, Mount Crosby, Karana Downs, Chuwar and Karalee will be considered through this process.

If any of the petitioners require any further information about this personalised public transport service, or wish to provide feedback on the frequency and reliability of the service, please visit the Brisbane City Council website at www.brisbane.qld.gov.au or phone 3403 8888.

In addition, if further information about routes 443 and 444 is required, petitioners are welcome to visit www.translink.com.au or call the TransLink Call Centre on 13 12 30.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



RACHEL NOLAN MP
Minister for Transport