



Hon Rachel Nolan MP
Member for Ipswich

Our ref: MC51309

Your ref: Petitions

3 SEP 2010

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

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petition number 1486-10 lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Mr Ray Stevens MP, Member for Mermaid Beach on 17 August 2010 about a request for a free six month bus service trial to encourage people to take up public transport on the Gold Coast.

The Queensland Government, through the TransLink Transit Authority, is committed to providing fair and equitable access to public transport across South East Queensland. For every \$1.00 spent on public transport, the Queensland Government contributes \$3.00. TransLink's challenge is to fill the gaps in the public transport network, while ensuring that services are well patronised, reliable and represent value for money.

The Bligh Government is committed to public transport on the Gold Coast and has vastly improved rail and bus services in recent years.

In 1980, Surfside Bus Lines operated five bus routes and carried approximately 300 000 people per year. Today, Surfside Bus Lines operates 53 bus routes on the TransLink network and moves 15 million passengers per year. In the last five years the Bligh Government has purchased 117 new buses and 77 replacement buses on the Gold Coast network. Also during this time, over \$15 million has been spent on bus service improvements, an increase of 95%.

Most recently, a bus service improvement package totalling \$740 000 per annum for the Southern Gold Coast commenced on 28 June 2010. The service improvement package includes:

- faster travel time and more direct service to the heavy rail network for passengers travelling from south of The Pines
- increased number of feeder bus routes to Varsity Lakes rail station
- increased feeder bus services on the western side of Varsity Lakes rail station



**Queensland
Government**

Minister for Transport

LAID UPON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE	
No.:	5310 T 02919
	- 6 SEP 2010
MP:	Hon R. Nolan MP
Clerk's Signature:	

Capital Hill Building
85 George Street Brisbane 4000
PO Box 2644 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3237 1111
Facsimile +61 7 3224 4242
Email transport@ministerial.qld.gov.au
ABN 65 959 415 158

- improved access to the Gold Coast Airport at Coolangatta (new route 761), including connections between the heavy rail network and airport, inducing demand and instigating travel patterns to replicate a future heavy rail extension to Elanora and eventually Coolangatta
- six new low-floor air-conditioned buses, funded by the Queensland Government
- an additional 238 services per week capable of carrying up to 15 470 passengers per week (13 000 seated and 2470 standing passengers)
- the additional capacity has the potential to remove 9520 cars from South East Queensland's congested roads.

The Bligh Government has massively increased the frequency of services on the Gold Coast rail line to deliver approximately a 15 minute level of service across the peak period. This has been enabled by \$700m worth of investment including:

- Helensvale to Robina duplication (\$72m) – completed 2008-09.
- Salisbury to Kuraby third track (\$256m) – completed 2008-09.
- Ormeau to Coomera duplication (\$22m) – completed 2006-07.
- Robina to Varsity Lakes (\$342m) – opened on Monday, 14 December 2009.

This is in addition to nearly \$1 billion being invested to purchase 64 new three-carriage trains, which are rolling off the production line at a rate of one per month.

This enormous investment has delivered for the Gold Coast.

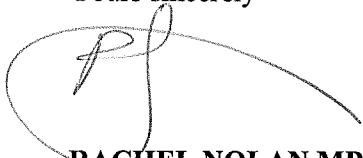
In 2005 there were five services in the AM Peak period, including four six-car services and one three-car service. In 2010 this has increased to eight services, all of which are six-car services. This represents approximately an 80% increase in AM peak capacity on the Gold Coast line between 2005 and 2010.

In 2005 there were five services in the PM Peak period, including four six-car services and one three-car service. In 2010 this has increased to nine services, all of which are six-car services. This represents a doubling (100% increase) of PM peak capacity on the Gold Coast line between 2005 and 2010.

With these service improvements in mind, TransLink is unable to provide a free trial service at this time.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



RACHEL NOLAN MP
Minister for Transport