



Hon Rachel Nolan MP
Member for Ipswich



Office of the
Minister for Transport

Our ref: MC49506

Your ref: Petitions

9 JUL 2010

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
Corner Alice and George Streets
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Neil

I refer to petition numbers 1436-10 and 1387-10 lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Mr Alex Douglas MP, Member for Gaven, on 18 May 2010 about Gold Coast bus services.

The TransLink Transit Authority make every effort for services to run on time, and to comply with published timetables. There are however many unpredictable factors and disruptions which can affect the on-time running of some bus trips, such as variable traffic conditions and road congestion, changes in the numbers of passengers boarding bus services, traffic accidents, road works and construction and adverse weather conditions. In circumstances where the scheduled timetable is unable to be met, TransLink has in place processes and procedures, and works with operators including Surfside to review services and timetables.

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 in 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 the following:

- 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 the station to Varsity Lakes rail station

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- 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 Bligh Government has also 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 \$700 million worth of investment including:

- Helensvale to Robina duplication (\$72 million) - completed 2008/09.
- Salisbury to Kuraby third track (\$256 million) - completed 2008/09.
- Ormeau to Coomera duplication (\$22 million) - completed 2006/07.
- Robina to Varsity Lakes (\$342 million) - 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.

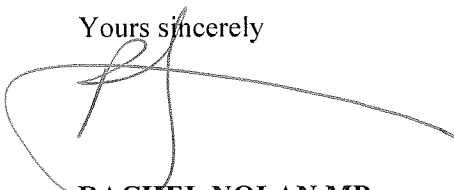
In 2005 there were five services in the AM Peak period, including four 6-car services and one 3-car service. In 2010 this has increased to eight services, all of which are 6-car services. This represents approximately an 80% increase in AM peak capacity on the Gold Coast line between 2005 and 2010.

In 2005 there were five services in the PM Peak period, including four 6-car services and one 3-car service. In 2010 this has increased to nine services, all of which are 6-car services. This represents a doubling (100% increase) of PM peak capacity on the Gold Coast line between 2005 and 2010.

Finally, the Bligh Government is investing \$1 billion to construct the Gold Coast Rapid Transit Project. This will transform public transport on the Gold Coast.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



RACHEL NOLAN MP
Minister for Transport