



Minister for Transport and Main Roads

Our ref: PET35143

Your ref: A512833

23 DEC 2019

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

1 William Street Brisbane 4000
GPO Box 2644 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3719 7300
Email transportandmainroads@ministerial.qld.gov.au
Website www.tmr.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petition 3201-19 lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Mr Tim Nicholls MP, Member for Clayfield on 27 November 2019 about free off-peak travel for seniors on trains.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to providing an efficient, reliable, and affordable public transport network for Queensland. Currently, the Queensland Government spends approximately \$5.6 billion on concessions each year, including more than \$329 million on concessions and assistance to pensioners, veterans, students, people with a disability, and their carers to make public transport more affordable.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads' TransLink Division (TransLink) is supporting Brisbane City Council (BCC) in the delivery of free off-peak travel for seniors. This initiative is funded by BCC and aims to provide seniors with a TransLink Senior *go* card or Seniors card +*go* with free off-peak travel on BCC buses and ferry services.

As this is a BCC initiative, and as Council is not responsible for rail travel, BCC cannot fund a commitment to provide free off-peak rail travel for seniors.

Please be assured that the Queensland Government continues to support Australian seniors with a valid Seniors Card from any state or territory by providing concession fares, which is 50 per cent off adult fares across the TransLink network, including rail.

Seniors can also take advantage of a range of discounts and incentives when travelling with their *go* card including:

- at least 30 per cent cheaper fares than a single one-way paper ticket
- One, Two, Free for seniors and pensioners. Seniors Card +*go*, senior *go* card or Pensioner concession *go* card holders who use *go* card for two paid journeys in a day travel free for the rest of the day
- a further 20 per cent off-peak discount applies between 8.30am – 3.30pm, and after 7pm until 6am on weekdays, and all day on weekends and on public holidays
- make eight paid *go* card journeys in a week (Monday to Sunday) and receive 50 per cent off any extra journeys made that week, regardless of the zones travelled.

The eight and 50 per cent off initiative was implemented as part of the Fairer Fares package, which the Palaszczuk Government introduced at the end of 2016. I am pleased to advise the implementation of the Fairer Fares package has been delivering cost of living relief to at least 93 per cent of commuters throughout SEQ, with fares savings of more than \$204 million as at October 2019.

As you may also be aware, free travel on Queensland Rail and Airtrain services was recently rolled out across four consecutive Mondays (18 and 25 November, 2 and 9 December 2019) to thank customers for their loyalty as Queensland Rail worked to restore services earlier this year.

TransLink will continue to work with its delivery partners to provide reliable and affordable transport for Queensland's public transport commuters, however, the provision of free off-peak travel for seniors on rail services is not under consideration at this time.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line that tapers to a point on the right.

MARK BAILEY MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads