



## **RACHEL NOLAN MP**

### **Member for Ipswich**

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#### **JOINT MEDIA RELEASE**

#### **TransLink second birthday celebrations mark milestone with muffins**

Member for Ipswich Rachel Nolan and Member for Ipswich West, Don Livingstone greeted morning commuters at Ipswich Train Station with muffins to celebrate a major TransLink milestone this month - its second birthday.

Ms Nolan and Mr Livingstone today joined other MPs and Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Paul Lucas, at rail and busway stations across the South East Queensland TransLink network in early morning birthday celebrations.

"South East Queensland is leading the way in public transport growth across the country – thanks to TransLink public transport is now easier to catch than ever before," Ms Nolan said.

"TransLink's first two years have seen record spending by this government on public transport which has paid off with an increase in public transport patronage by almost 20%."

Mr Livingstone said that "Commuters have embraced integrated ticketing, because it allows them to travel from Ipswich on TransLink trains and integrate trips with bus and ferry services across the south east with just one ticket".

In March 2005, TransLink released the Draft TransLink Network Plan which commits \$335 million for public transport services over the next decade.

"This plan represents one of the largest investments ever injected into Queensland's public transport system with a 20% increase in funding for bus services on top of the almost \$600 million that the Government spends yearly on public transport," Mr Livingstone said.

"TransLink has revolutionised public transport in the South East, with more services better tuned to commuters' needs and we will continue to work with bus operators to upgrade facilities and improve services in all areas," Ms Nolan said.

## TransLink Background

- For TransLink integrated ticketing is just the first stage to improve the public transport system other initiatives over the past 2 years and into the future include:
  - \$32.8million has been invested per year in public transport service improvements to introduce an extra 8.3million/km of transport services
  - \$39.5million has been committed to improve bus stops, stations and park n' ride facilities over the past 2 years, with \$55.5million earmarked until 08
  - March 06 marked the start of construction on King George Square and Roma St sections of the Inner Northern Busway, which will become the heart of the \$1.9billion busway network
  - Since July 04 TransLink funded more than 119 buses for private bus operators, funded 70 new low-floor air-conditioned gas buses to replace older vehicles in the Brisbane Transport fleet and 41 buses for increased demand
  - From May 07, \$289million worth of new train sets for the QR Citytrain network will be rolled out and \$22million invested on upgrades to rail stations including disabled access improvements, park n' rides, bus interchanges and security enhancements, with \$113million intended for the next 2 years
  - Free travel to major events at the Gabba and Suncorp Stadium have been introduced which has seen 80% of the crowds at events use public transport
- Other TransLink highlights since its inception include:
  - Launch of the Draft TransLink Network Plan which outlines an investment of more than \$335M over the next decade to boost public transport services in SEQ including annual spending of:
    - \$19M in **Brisbane City**
    - \$3M in Eastern Region (**Redlands**)
    - \$4.9M in Southern Region (**Logan and Beenleigh**)
    - \$2.6M in Nthrn Region (**Pine Rivers, Redcliffe and Caboolture**)
    - \$12.8M in Western Region (**Ipswich**)
    - \$5.5M on the **Sunshine Coast**
    - \$9.4M on the **Gold Coast**
  - More than 200 different ticket types were consolidated into five core products and several operator-specific products
  - Redesigned timetables and route maps into a consistent format provide clear passenger information
  - More than 3.7M queries were answered via the TransLink call centre during the past two years
  - The TransLink website received more than 5.1M visits
  - TransLink produced university services guides to make it easier for students to catch public transport to their campus