



Speech by

Hon. Rachel Nolan

MEMBER FOR IPSWICH

Hansard Tuesday, 4 August 2009

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Go Card

Hon. RG NOLAN (Ipswich—ALP) (Minister for Transport) (10.14 am): I am thrilled to announce that just this morning the public transport authority TransLink issued its 400,000th go card. This is yet another significant milestone for our public transport smart card in the south-east. The go card consistently surpasses all expectations and forecasts, easily outpacing its June sales target of 250,000. Today, one-third of all public transport trips are taken using a go card. This is nearing half of all trips made during morning and afternoon peak hour travel. More than 40 million trips have been made on go card and more than \$100 million has been loaded on to the smart cards thus far—all this from a system that was rolled out a little more than 18 months ago.

But there is another view on the success of this system—a strange view given the statistics I have just disclosed. When the member for Clayfield was shadow transport minister he opted to resist change and encouraged passengers to stick with the old paper tickets instead of embracing the new go card system, which his side described as a joke and a disaster. He said the go card was facing credibility issues. But that was clearly not the case with public transport users out there: 400,000 cards have been issued. The card has gone from strength to strength and the credibility issues now lie squarely with the member for Clayfield and those opposite who view public transport as 'middle class welfare'.

Mr Nicholls: Show us your go card.

Ms NOLAN: Speaking of change, did anything change under the new opposition transport spokesperson?

Mr Nicholls: Have you got one?

Ms NOLAN: No. When we tried to run an education and awareness campaign over Christmas to teach new users about the card and how to use it, the member for Maroochydore again resisted and questioned its value.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms NOLAN: Nothing changed on your side, and I absolutely have a go card, member for Clayfield. Have you?

Mr Nicholls: Absolutely—had one before you did.

Ms NOLAN: You are the one who said it was not a good system, but 400,000 South-East Queenslanders disagree. But is that really a surprise? Our advertising campaigns are approved and in the public interest whereas their approvals are doctored. We run advertising campaigns to educate the public and they run advertising campaigns to mislead them.