



Rachel Nolan MP

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Cleaner, greener, further in eco-bus trial for Ipswich

A Brisbane-based trial of cleaner, greener passenger buses will roll out to Ipswich with the loan of a new hybrid bus, Transport Minister and Member for Ipswich Rachel Nolan said today.

Ms Nolan announced in June that the State Government had ordered a diesel-electric "green bus" from manufacturers BCI as part of a \$1.2 million trial to see how the bus would operate in regional Queensland.

BCI have now loaned Westside Bus Company a hybrid bus for a period of two weeks during August/September 2009.

Ms Nolan said the trial was designed to see how diesel-electric hybrid buses would operate in Ipswich.

"This bus will be carrying passengers on the 515 services to the University of Queensland Ipswich Campus and Riverlink via Bell Street and be assessed on its performance in terms of passenger comfort, driver acceptance, fuel usage and on-time performance," Ms Nolan said.

Ms Nolan said hybrid buses emit between 30 and 40 per cent fewer greenhouse gases when compared with conventional diesel-driven buses, according to independent studies from the United States.

"Over the 2 short weeks of this trial, if we take the American data into account, that would equate to 2 fewer tonnes of CO2 being emitted and a 307 litre saving in fuel," Ms Nolan said.

The BCI buses are being built and fitted out for \$500,000 and are made in China using Australian steel.

"There is a trial already underway with locally-made Volgren buses in Brisbane," Ms Nolan said.

"Trialing this bus from another supplier lets us test a range of manufacturing specifications."

Westside Bus Company will use the trial to assist with planning a fleet strategy for the future and as part of the development of their environmental policy.