

Don't let our public transport system become a museum piece.

**Invest in rail and public transport networks, not more roads,
to curb global warming**

Firstly I would like to particularly thank Senator Andrew Bartlett for attending this launch outside The Workshops Railway Museum here in North Ipswich. Andrew is the only Australian Democrat senator in Queensland and is deputy leader of the Australian Democrats so he is incredibly busy. Andrew is up for re-election this year, so if Queenslanders want to keep their only genuine, hard-working, experienced and independent senator, vote for Andrew.

As most people now know, we have a major environmental crisis on our hands. Global warming of our planet is already upon us and the scientific community has agreed this warming is caused by humans. We must act to curb the warming of our planet and we must act now.

Since 1988, the Australian Democrats have been campaigning for cuts in greenhouse gas emissions and to make our nation more sustainable. One important way to achieve these goals is to have an efficient and effective public transport system. For decades we have advocated for more investment in public transport to reduce our economic and social dependence on cars.

The old parties have in the past ridiculed and opposed the Democrats for this stance but now the reality of their inaction is becoming apparent, as is their lack of long-term plans.

Lack of federal government investment in our rail and public transport networks has made us economically, socially and environmentally vulnerable. Our over-dependence on cars and trucks means growing greenhouse gas emissions from the transport sector, higher fuel prices eating at our budgets and increasing time spent stuck in traffic.

The fast growing suburbs of Ipswich and the surrounding townships are poor in public transport, families must rely on cars almost exclusively for transport and this makes them hardest hit when fuel prices go up. On top of this, many families are already struggling financially with higher grocery bills, higher interest rates and large mortgage or rent repayments.

The federal Liberal Party has shown a complete lack of commitment to do anything about transport related global warming by committing to go ahead with the outrageously expensive

Goodna Bypass. The initial cost of this 9 kilometre bypass has been put at \$2.3 billion but this cost is sure to blow out if it is actually constructed. One of the main reasons for this 9 kilometre stretch of road is to provide a dedicated corridor for freight traffic which means a great many more trucks on our roads.

For a similar cost we could have most of the 1700 kilometre Melbourne to Brisbane inland rail freight line built. This would take hundreds of trucks off the road each day, decreasing damage to our highways, reducing traffic congestion and cutting greenhouse gas emissions. Freight movement would be faster, cleaner and cheaper resulting in lower prices on supermarket shelves.

The Liberal's reliance on building roads at the expense of rail and other public transport modes is a retrograde step that will lead to economic hardship and social dislocation as the full impact of measures to curb global warming is felt.

The ALP also needs to do far more for the Ipswich area than upgrade the Ipswich Motorway. It needs to review its planning at Federal and State level to meet future transport challenges for SEQ and it needs to be bold and innovative. Encouraging car use is not the way to go. Building more roads will make the situation worse. It is unsustainable and encourages further car usage. You simply cannot build your way out of traffic congestion. The ALP need to commit to increasing public transport infrastructure and patronage. They need to have efficient and effective strategies at national and state levels for taking freight off the roads and putting it on rail.

Ipswich and South-East Queensland needs an integrated public transport system that is well planned and well funded. As one of the major growth areas in Australia, there is an urgent need for rail, light rail and bus networks with a priority for those areas where transport services are poor. Fast train services are needed to link all major centres with a high-quality feeder system of buses providing access to the rail services.

The Australian Democrat's have always been forward thinking, commonsense party that acts for the common good. Using, improving and extending the public transport system will play an important part in curbing global warming. We have been pressing for action on global warming for years. It is time for serious action. It is time the major parties stopped playing politics with global warming. It is time they stopped playing politics with our future.

Vote Australian Democrats number one for the Senate and the House of Representatives, that will get the message across.

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