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NEW TRANSLINK TIMETABLE CAUSES TURMOIL

Member for Noosa, Glen Elmes, has called upon Translink to explain why there has been so little community consultation or planning in the scheduling of new bus services for the Noosa Community.

“I am completely mystified and cannot explain their thinking” says Glen Elmes “I have been advocating for increased public transport into the Noosa Electorate for some time and some good progress has been made. However the recent changes, for example, to the 628 and 629 service to the Moorindil Street retirement community now offers four buses within 12 minutes of each other and then nothing for 48 minutes, where previously they had two buses every ½ hour on the half hour.

“Amidst much fanfare and publicity, Translink recently announced with great pride the creation of new services for the Sunshine Coast community and, according to recent media releases by Minister for Transport Rachel Nolan, a survey of almost 5000 Queenslanders across the state, has found 70 per cent of users were satisfied with public transport services.

“This is clearly not the case in Noosa” says Glen “my office has been inundated with calls from frustrated bus passengers who can’t get across town any more quickly now than previously.

“My great concern is that someone in a high-rise somewhere in Brisbane will look at the statistics which will probably show that 2 or 3 of the 4 buses mentioned in my example are running empty. They will then decide that there is not enough demand for the service and cancel them altogether.

“What we really need is for the buses to be put into service as the community needs them, evening out the scheduling so as to provide a good service as before, and if changes are to be made then the community should be asked for input.

“It’s well past time that we have public transport which is reliable and meets community need.” ENDS

For further information contact: Glen Elmes 5449 8988 or 0400 800 114

CB05 Noosa Civic, 28 Eenie Creek Road PO Box 1849, Noosaville BC Q 4566

Ph (07) 5449 8988 FreeCall 1800 818 396 Fax (07) 5449 9719

EMAIL: noosa@parliament.qld.gov.au