

# Commuting off the rails

## Timetable shifts makes days longer

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ADAM Nettheim of Doonan has had enough of crazy train timetables and is ready to join countless others who are saying "it's just not worth it" to catch train services from the Sunshine Coast.

Mr Nettheim moved to Doonan four years ago with his family from Sydney for a lifestyle change and to take a job in superannuation at Noosa Junction.

A few months later that job fell through and, because of limited career options, Mr Nettheim had to venture to the Brisbane CBD to find work.

But a series of timetable changes, fare increases – and more to come – the end of annual ticketing, overcrowding debacles and now a service pushed back almost half an hour after he finishes work, Mr Nettheim is asking whether he is better off getting in the car?

On top of that, the State Government's recent time-



**UNSUSTAINABLE JOURNEY:** Adam Nettheim's commute by train every day from Doonan on the Sunshine Coast to work in the Brisbane CBD has been made longer.

table changes have seen more stops along the way and a reduction in express services.

Mr Nettheim admits it would cost more money to commute by car but he'd get back some of the 13 hours a day he currently spends

away from his family as a result of the commute to work and back.

Last year Mr Nettheim said the journey was sustainable.

Now he says it is too much pressure on his family.

"Back when we first started doing it, the train service

was pretty reliable, the cost of it was quite good, especially when you could buy annual tickets," he told *The Journal*.

"These days Translink has removed those discounts so you have to use the Go Card. "The only time they offer

discounts is off-peak or if you travel more than 10 times a week.

"With the timetable changes they are pushing the services for a lot of people who don't finish until 5pm to the point where it's almost half an hour to the next train.

"Particularly for people going to Nambour and north, most nights I'm not home until 8pm.

"You can accept some changes but with anything you look for value and you look for efficiency," he said.

Mr Nettheim said he and his wife had considered moving closer to the city, but were cautious to do so because they didn't want to disrupt their 10-year-old son's education.

He said his preference, of course, would be to get work on the Sunshine Coast.

Mr Nettheim said he was also concerned for young people on lower wages who, as a result of less job opportunities on the Sunshine Coast, were forced to spend a large chunk of their wages travelling to the city.

"It would be getting to over 20 per cent I'd imagine."

Mr Nettheim is calling on Translink to recognise that there are people who have to live with its constant chops and changes, unreliability and cost.

### CITY ROUND TRIP

■ Weekly cost of commuting (based on adult go card peak fares):

**Nambour**  
2011 - \$121.90  
2012 - \$140.20  
2013 - \$161.30  
2014 - \$185.50

**Eumundi**  
2011 - \$153.00  
2012 - \$176.00  
2013 - \$202.40  
2014 - \$232.80

■ Percentage of wages spent on travel each year (based on 48 weeks of travel a year on a \$55,000 gross salary, including year-on-year price increases):

**2011**  
Caboolture 7%  
Landsborough 9%  
Nambour 13%  
Eumundi 16%

**2012**  
Caboolture 8%  
Landsborough 9%  
Nambour 14%  
Eumundi 18%

**2013**  
Caboolture 9%  
Landsborough 12%  
Nambour 16%  
Eumundi 20%

**2014**  
Caboolture 10%  
Landsborough 13%  
Nambour 18%  
Eumundi 22%

SNAPSHOT

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