

The Sunshine Coast Case

Rail duplication Beerburrum to Nambour

By: Jeffrey Addison, Member Rail Back on Track

Fix the bottleneck campaign

Hello and welcome.

This campaign is dedicated to the longest haul commuter in the Queensland Rail network, you. It is also dedicated to saving lives by moving freight off the highways and back onto rail.

Our aim is address the inequality perpetrated against the Sunshine Coast rail commuter and lobby for action.

44% of our daily services between Nambour & Caboolture are buses.

26 of them daily!

These buses take up to 1 & 1/2 hours to travel 54km, the train takes about 1 hour.

The reason?

There is not enough room on the single line track for the long distance passenger trains, the freight rail services and our city rail passenger trains. This section of the north coast rail line is unique in the nation for the number and types of services that utilise it.

On 14 April 2009, a mere 24 days after the State election was held, all work stopped on the duplication at Beerburrum, leaving an infrastructure bottleneck that achieved nothing for faster times of travel or extra capacity on our rail line.

In a press release on 29 August, 2005, The Hon. Paul Lucas MP, then Transport Minister described the section of track from Caboolture to Nambour as "one of the weakest links in the QR network."

Our services to Brisbane now take longer than ever before under a new timetable implemented on June 6, and revised on July 11 when a new 5:28pm service was introduced after a public outcry over massive overcrowding.

Thankfully that situation was resolved, yet still our trains are crowded with no spare seats available from the city, to accommodate growth in patronage - this is a critical concern.

From all of the government studies and reports I have read, the only answer to our woes is for the rail line to be duplicated from Beerburrum to Nambour.

This would allow for more freight trains and more passenger services, it would allow for our former express services to return and would allow for faster journeys.

Gympie North trains being the only services to retain the old 20 station express pattern.

Together we can work for change to improve our future, our region and our lives.