

Wins and losses to Coast bus network

A REVIEW of the Sunshine Coast's local bus network is set to improve connections by the end of the year.

Transport and Main Roads Minister Scott Emerson said TransLink's Emerson would result in a better connected network for the Coast, particularly enhancing connections to and from retail hubs and train stations.

"Route 600 (Caloundra to Maroochydore) is set to see an increase in its frequency during weekdays," he said.

"Route 600 already carries more than 20% of the Sunshine Coast's total patronage and the proposed changes are set to strengthen the corridor between Caloundra and Maroochydore.

"The new network will also take advantage of the soon-to-be-completed Maroochydore bus station.

"Customer feedback from the initial stages of the review has been addressed and the proposed new network recommends strengthening bus and rail connections with improvements to route 605 (Kawana to Landsborough via Caloundra), 615 (Maroochydore to Landsborough via Mooloolaba and the University of the Sunshine Coast), 630 (Noosa to Nambour via Eumundi) and 631 (Noosa to Nambour via Eumundi and Cooroy) services." Services to the University will also improve with more direct bus routes.

Public transport advocate Jeff Addison said the review was "good news" for bus users on the Coast.

"These changes will encourage the use of public transport and hopefully bring forward the much needed rail duplication to Nambour," he said.

But despite improvements, Mr Addison said cancellation of routes 601 (Caloundra to Maroochydore) and 613 (Twin Waters to Maroochydore), and Hinterland Connect bus service due to lack of patronage was disappointing.

Feedback on the translink.com.au opens today and closes on March 24.