

January extended track closures - impacts all lines

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TransLink and police join forces on Sunshine Coast

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TransLink will bolster security at Sunshine Coast's public transport hubs across the region in cooperation with the Queensland Police Service.

The joint operation will see an increased presence of TransLink's Senior Network Officers on the network in December to ensure safe and pleasant travelling experiences for customers.

TransLink, with the assistance of the QPS, will target crime, anti-social behaviour and fare evasion at key hubs and on bus services with the blitz which will continue into the school holidays.

TransLink Executive Director of Operations Jasmine Green said SNOs have been influential in combating these problems.

"Translink takes fare evasion and the safety of all passengers very seriously," Ms Green said.

"All public transport users suffer as a result of the actions of a minority.

"The SNOs already do an excellent job in South East Queensland and boosting their presence on the Sunshine Coast, along with police, will help give the public extra confidence in public transport safety.

"Crime and anti-social behaviour on public transport is a community issue and we appreciate the assistance of the Queensland police to tackle the problem."

For December, and throughout the Christmas break, extra SNOs will be deployed on the Sunshine Coast to team with local police.

SNOs are highly trained in de-escalation techniques and have extended powers which include the authority to detain and search people where necessary.

"This joint Operation is part of an ongoing commitment by the Queensland Police Service to work with local stakeholders and ensure the community feels safe utilising the public transport network," Acting Superintendent



Jon Lewis said.

"Police continue to work with the community and urge passengers to report any issues and provide information to assist in putting a stop to anti-social behaviour and criminal activity," he said.

The Sunshine Coast blitz comes as eight new SNOs have this month graduated from their final training to take the number of personnel to 57 in south-east Queensland.

It also follows a TransLink campaign targeting services across the Gold Coast, Ipswich, Brisbane and Redlands networks, including schools which have high levels of sighted fare evasion.

Ms Green said the SNOs' extra time on buses and trains proved fruitful, with the increased presence allowing them to educate greater numbers of school students.

"With almost 190 million trips taken on SEQ public transport last financial year, most customers do the right thing but we know the SNOs are highly effective in minimising fare evasion, crime and anti-social behaviour," she said.

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