



Thursday, July 29, 2010

Give way to the elephants

TransLink is reminding motorists to give way to buses for their own safety.

TransLink CEO Peter Strachan said a bus weighs about 18 tonne, or the equivalent of three African elephants.

“Gold Coast roads would be safer and public transport more efficient if people displayed some common courtesy and let buses have right of way when they are entitled,” he said.

“Why would a motorist take on an 18 tonne bus? It’s dangerous and illegal.”

Mr Strachan said the average bus is 12.5 metres long or approximately three car lengths which makes manoeuvrability different to other vehicles on the road.

Spokesperson for Surfside Buses Megan Harkin said Gold Coast drivers can help improve bus travel efficiency by giving way to a bus and allowing the driver to safely merge.

“Next time you give way to a bus, remind yourself you are helping 45,000 Surfside passengers every day, get to where they need to be – safely and on time.

“When motorists give way to buses it assists them to continue to provide a timely service for the community and can decrease the number of accidents.”

Ms Harkin said buses pull in and out of 1500 stops on the Gold Coast and that starting and stopping is an inevitable part of a bus route.

“Our drivers spend all day, every day managing difficult traffic conditions while trying to deliver on time services and maintain a timetable,” she said.

Giving way to buses is not just a safety concern, it is also the law.

Motorists are reminded that buses legally have the right of way in built-up areas with a speed limit of 70kmh or less, when:

- The bus has stopped, or is moving slowly, at the far left side of the road or in a bus-stop, and
- The bus displays a give way to buses sign and the right indicator light is flashing, and
- The bus is about to enter or proceed in the lane or line of traffic in which the motorist is driving

Drivers who did not give way to buses face fines of \$180 and the loss of three demerit points.

For more information on public transport, visit the TransLink website www.translink.com.au or phone the 24/7 Call Centre on 13 12 30.

Media: TransLink media unit on 0421 581 803 (24 hours)