



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 weighs about 18 tonne, or the equivalent of three African elephants.

“Sunshine 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.

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

Spokesperson for Sunbus, Megan Harkin, said their drivers pull in and out of 750 stops on the Sunshine Coast.

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

“There is nothing to gain by speeding up to overtake a merging bus or refusing to give way to a bus leaving a bus stop.

“It is a dangerous practice which can lead to accidents.

“Next time you give way to a bus, remind yourself you are helping some of the 12,000 passengers that Sunbus carries every day to get to where they need to be – safely and on time.”

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)