



Home pick-up latest benefit for bus user

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A BUS service heralded as a world first where passengers are picked up from their front door is being trialled in Toowoomba.

An initiative of Queensland Transport and Sunbus, the system uses satellite positioning to register the location of callers who wish to be picked and taken to the city.

Launching the trial yesterday, State Transport Minister Paul Lucas said similar systems operated in other parts of the world but this was the only one where the pick-up call could be registered while the bus was en route.

Called the Kan-go roaming bus, it will operate only on Route 3 (Rangeville) at this stage but may take in one other Toowoomba route in the future.

Paul Logan from Queensland Transport said Route 3 was chosen because of high numbers of elderly residents and its current under-use.

"For 76% of the time, the bus was dead empty on the last third of the trip," Mr Lo-



Queensland Transport Minister Paul Lucas, right, Paul Logan from Queensland Transport, left, and Grant Ure from Raywood Solutions explain the Kan-go bus service.

Picture: GREG BERGHOFER

gan said.

Under the Kan-go system, users dial a free-call number an hour ahead of pick-up time.

Fares will be the same as for normal services.

The service travels from the city to the Range Shopping Centre via St Vincent's Hospital.

Mr Lucas said it would be particularly useful to the el-

derly.

"This is a great initiative for elderly people in the 'roam zone' on top of the Toowoomba Range who need to get to the local shopping centre, their local doctor or the hospital," he said.

The service operates from 7.45am to 5.45pm Monday to Friday and from 9.45am to 1.45pm Saturday.

To book, call 1800 231 248.

How it works

Passengers call a free toll number and their location details are logged in.

The bus driver is sent the booking via satellite, along with the route required to collect the passenger.

On pick-up, the driver adds return journey details in the computer.

It calculates the best drop-off route.