



Transit Australia Group

PRESS//NEWS

All aboard the Gold Coast's newest and most affordable attraction 19 October 2011

Shiny and green, double the size and double the fun, locally built and a world first!

Weighing in at 21,000 kilograms and 12.5 metres long, the Gold Coast tomorrow will welcome the arrival of a brand new attraction with a practical edge.

Proudly delivered by local manufacturer, Bustech, for all the world to see, the Double Decker bus is the first of its kind and is the result of 18 months of creative engineering, tremendous technical feats, and extreme determination.

On **Wednesday 19th October 8:30am** Gold Coast Mayor, Ron Clarke, will join industry stakeholders, TransLink and staff from Transit Australia Group (TAG), parent company to bus manufacturer Bustech and Surfside Buslines to officially launch the Double Decker Dazzler and celebrate her maiden voyage, along the Gold Coast Highway.

The general public is also invited to attend between 8am & 9am to view the new Double Decker first hand and join in the rollout of this new technology.

"The vehicle itself represents state of the art design and functionality, putting Australia on the world stage once again for award winning manufacturing.

"The great news is that we not only made it, but we get to keep it. That doesn't happen very often with world class technology that is home grown," TAG General Manager Megan Harkin said

The remarkable vehicle will travel Surfside Buslines' 700 timetable series daily between Tweed Heads and Southport thanks to a substantial investment from TransLink.

State and local government, industry and special interest groups looking to address traffic congestion and arrest the associated environmental impacts, regard this vehicle, and the difference it will make to the provision of quality public transport, as ground breaking.

Carrying twice as many passengers than a regular bus means fewer cars on the road, fewer passengers waiting to get to and from popular tourist attractions, a safer road space and a comfortable and safe journey, enticing more people to hop on board - at regular Translink fares.

Ends

(Photo Opportunity continues: Pg 2)





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Photo Opportunity

8:30am Wednesday 19th October

The Broadwater, on the south side of Southport Swimming Pool

Gold Coast Mayor, Ron Clarke, will officially launch the Double Decker with a ribbon cutting ceremony prior to the vehicle embarking on its maiden voyage along the Gold Coast Highway.

Interesting Facts and Figures

What is so great about the technology?

- It is the first low floor twin steer, wheelchair accessible bus in the world.
- It has a small turning circle of 22.5 metres, suitable for suburban streets
- It is 4.3 metres high, has a fuel tank capacity of 400 litres and sports a 9 litre Cummins engine (think the power of a huge semi trailer)
- Costs less to maintain than a regular articulated bus
- Cheaper to build than a articulated bus, seat 30 more passengers and take up less room on the road

What is great for passengers?

- More room – 96 seats, double that of a normal bus
- Standing comfort - Ceiling height on each level is 1.83 metres
- Easy stairs - The stairwell is one straight flight of stairs, lined with blue fluoro lighting and
- brushed stainless steel panels to reflect light. (Staircase design is based on the design of double decker Airbus staircases)
- Easy to find a seat - A video monitor on the lower floor shows seat availability on the top deck.

Image courtesy of Natalie McComas

