



**Stephen Bromhead**

Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Transport

**Gurmesh Singh**

Member for Coffs Harbour

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **BUSBOT TAKES ON PASSENGERS IN NEW TRIAL PHASE**

Passengers will be invited to board Coffs Harbour's resident driverless shuttle 'Busbot' and travel around the North Coast Regional Botanic Garden from this afternoon.

Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Transport Stephen Bromhead said BusBot was leading the charge for automated vehicles in Australia.

"This is world-leading technology being put to the test in a regional area. This trial is allowing us to explore new and innovative ways for local communities to move around and stay connected," Mr Bromhead said.

"BusBot was the world's first On-Demand automated shuttle service to operate at a retirement village, providing more insight to the mobility needs of older communities.

"This final phase of the trial will be the most complex and exciting stage as we learn more about driverless technology and the opportunities to expand it further."

Member for Coffs Harbour Gurmesh Singh encouraged customers to get on board BusBot from this afternoon to enjoy a new way to view the gardens.

"I'm really excited to see the award-winning BusBot start transporting passengers around the North Coast Regional Botanic Garden as it is the perfect environment to test some more impressive features of the vehicle," Mr Singh said.

"Passengers will be able to travel from the café to the Japanese Gardens, stopping at the Sensory Garden and the Endangered Species section."

A shuttle supervisor will be on board providing customer service and information while monitoring the vehicle.

Managing Director of local bus operator Busways Byron Rowe said it was great to be part of a program that tested new technologies in public passenger transport.

"Busways is thrilled to continue working in a collaborative partnership with the NSW Government, Coffs Harbour City Council, and vehicle manufacturer EasyMile on the BusBot Project," Mr Rowe said.

BusBot will operate 9am-5pm, Monday to Saturday, excluding Wednesdays.

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