



FREE

Picture: NICOLE CLEARY



GIRAFFE WITH THE SMOOTH

Kat Cazan is wild about Victoria Zoo's Beads for Wildlife project at Fed Square's Fair @ Square this weekend. Australia's largest fair trade and ethical festival promotes a northern Kenya community trade program that helps more than 500 families from the profits of beaded jewellery sales. Visit www.zoo.org.au/beads

It's a lockout

Inga Gilchrist

Commuters will be locked out of toilets installed for platform guards at stations, Public Transport Minister Terry Mulder says.

Opening loos to travellers would be too dangerous, he told *mX*.

"I don't intend to open up these services used by protective service officers to the public," he said.

Commuters off to Bustville as loos barred

"When toilets were closed there were significant security issues around the toilets. (People) know that if they're going to a station and there aren't toilets there, they make arrangements."

It means passengers caught short must hang on, while protective service

officers can enjoy a handy throne.

Mulder wouldn't guarantee he'd refrain from using the PSO-only dunnies. "I don't intend to get caught short."

Public Transport Users Association president Daniel Bowen queried Mulder. "Why would it be dangerous to open

toilets when armed guards are nearby on the platform?" he said.

On his first anniversary as minister, Mulder said commuters must wait until mid-2012 for his promised Public Transport Development Authority action plan. He wants more customer service

expertise for smooth connections.

"This authority gives them a single shopfront; for the first time they will have their own authority," he said.

Bowen responded: "It seems like a long wait from the Coalition's win in late 2010 to sometime in 2012 to hear how these issues are going to be fixed."

Only 21 PSO recruits of 940 promised have begun final training. The Baillieu Government promised 93 by June 30.

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