and more affordable housing and unlock significant economic growth and jobs for Queensland. Creating more jobs for Queenslanders has been the mantra of this Palaszczuk government since we came to government. It will remain so as we continue to grow Queensland.

I have worked with EDQ on many occasions, and I am looking forward to a partnership where we will collaborate with other state agencies to identify land renewal and repurposing possibilities within priority economic and community zones including regional cities, urban renewal precincts, health and knowledge precincts, housing renewal and integration precincts, Queensland renewable energy sites and regional livability precincts.

As a town-planner by profession I back this Advancing our cities and regions strategy, because I am confident that this strategy will deliver a key component of our state's fabric: urban renewal, which is fundamental to the sustainability and livability of regional towns and cities and creates an opportunity to deliver better access to health, community and jobs—the critical trifecta in our regions. As a planner I also applaud the Palaszczuk government's Advancing our cities and regions strategy because of its innovative approach to renewing underutilised state land for the benefit of all Queenslanders. Innovation has been a fundamental and deliberate planning element in this government, and this management strategy to make maximum use of dormant government land should be applauded by all Queenslanders who value the creation of significant social and community outcomes with a specific focus on jobs and long term economic growth. In Yeppoon specifically, the innovative plan is to take the underused state land that is the former railway site and turn it into an attractive, vibrant area to attract further economic activity.

Aside from the significant benefits outlined, the potential is there to create a long-term funding stream for local communities, whilst taking some of the financial burden from the government to continue to maintain these dormant properties. The Advancing our cities and regions strategy goes one step further—a major step which those sitting opposite failed to achieve in their brief foray in government; that is, to partner with the private investment sector to introduce investors into new areas and create social infrastructure which then becomes the heart of further economic development.

This innovative project from the Palaszczuk government lays out a clear and achievable platform for future economic growth where this form of development also provides additional income for reinvestment in future infrastructure projects. Since the announcement last week, people in my community have been so excited about the opportunities that the old Yeppoon railway station site provides. The site is prime CBD land in Yeppoon. I think the advancing our cities strategy is good planning, good economic management and good government.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! The time for matters of public interest has expired.

CROSS RIVER RAIL DELIVERY AUTHORITY BILL

Message from Governor

Hon. JA TRAD (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade and Investment) (12.34 pm): I present a message from His Excellency the Governor.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): The message from His Excellency recommends the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority Bill. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

MESSAGE

CROSS RIVER RAIL DELIVERY AUTHORITY BILL 2016

Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 68

I, PAUL de JERSEY AC, Governor, recommend to the Legislative Assembly a Bill intituled—

A Bill for an Act to establish the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority and to amend this Act, the Economic Development Act 2012 and the Right to Information Act 2009 for particular purposes.

GOVERNOR

Date: 11 October 2016

Tabled paper: Message, dated 11 October 2016, from His Excellency the Governor, recommending the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority Bill 2016.

Introduction

Hon. JA TRAD (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade and Investment) (12.34 pm): I present a bill for an act to establish the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority and to amend this act, the Economic Development Act 2012 and the Right to Information Act 2009 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Cross River Rail Delivery Authority Bill 2016.

Tabled paper: Cross River Rail Delivery Authority Bill 2016, explanatory notes.

Cities and metropolitan regions are becoming increasingly important foci of opportunity, productivity and economic growth. It is vital that we invest in the necessary infrastructure and city shaping that makes great Queensland cities like Brisbane even better. Population growth in the coming decades means that we will have more people seeking to access jobs and more people seeking access to quality and affordable housing. To access jobs and housing we need to maintain and improve access to those places where people work and where they live. We need to address our growing road based congestion in South-East Queensland. All this will see greater demand for public transport, and it is great public transport that is a hallmark of great cities.

Predicted population growth will see our rail system needing to account for an additional 45,000 passengers in the morning two-hour peak period by 2026. This is the equivalent of 100 fully seated trains. By 2036 this will expand to an additional 83,000 passengers, or 185 full train loads. This drives the need for South-East Queensland to be better designed and better connected, with better integration of land use, infrastructure and transport. The Cross River Rail project delivers this for Queensland.

A new rail connection across the Brisbane River will transform Brisbane, providing much needed congestion relief on the rail network and rail service access to new locations around the centre of Brisbane, opening up access to jobs and opportunities. Cross River Rail will improve connectivity and frequency of services between Brisbane and the rest of South-East Queensland. It will also provide the catalyst for major urban renewal opportunities around new station precincts. This supports more compact urban forms, more vibrant centres and access to housing choice, jobs, education and leisure opportunities. Critically, it will better link residential growth areas to key employment hubs. It will double rail capacity across the Brisbane River and through the CBD from the south. It will provide new or upgraded stations for the inner city's key employment and urban renewal areas. It will connect knowledge infrastructure, which is important to realise the entrepreneurial and innovative vision of this government's Advance Queensland initiative.

This government is also planning to capitalise on the government's investment in Cross River Rail to generate wider economic benefits by establishing nodes of major economic activity which are centred around the Cross River Rail stations. These nodes can then link to hospitals, universities, sports and entertainment venues and other government services and commercial activities. Importantly, income generated from developing sites within the corridor will be retained by the authority for reinvestment in the project.

The authority will work with other government agencies including Economic Development Queensland to fully integrate transport and land use associated with Cross River Rail and transform South-East Queensland. The authority will be responsible for finalising the funding model, leading procurement and managing the delivery of both the Cross River Rail infrastructure project and the wider economic development associated with the Cross River Rail innovation and economic development corridor.

The authority's powers are not new powers. These powers are already carried out by a number of agencies across state government. However, by combining these powers into a single independent statutory body, the authority will have the necessary support to deliver both the below-ground infrastructure and the above-ground development required to fully realise this project's city transformation opportunities. The authority will ensure that Cross River Rail stays on track and is not derailed by politics. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. JA TRAD (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade and Investment) (12.39 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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