



Speech by

**Hon. ANNA BLIGH**

**MEMBER FOR SOUTH BRISBANE**

Hansard Wednesday, 1 September 2010

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## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Railway Stations, Renovations**

**Hon. AM BLIGH** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.44 am): I am pleased to advise the House that our government is currently undertaking the biggest clean-up blitz in the 145-year history of Queensland passenger rail. The \$200 million Rail Station Renovation Program—

**Mr Dempsey:** Like the asset sales.

**Ms BLIGH:** They really do not care about people who catch public transport. We know that. This side of politics cares about people who need public transport. We are investing in passenger rail and we are going to invest in it at unprecedented rates, because we have had the guts to make the decisions necessary to put the money in. What are people going to see? The passengers on our rail system will see a \$200 million Rail Station Renovation Program. It was announced in this year's budget and we are now in the final planning stages. Passengers will see around one-third of train stations in South-East Queensland receive a massive facelift. Upgrades will range from major works, such as new lifts, ticket offices, expanded car parks and fixing up the basics like new toilets, seating and LCD screens displaying service information. I can confirm today, for example, that we will spend \$7 million to upgrade the heritage listed buildings at South Brisbane station. This station was last upgraded in 1988 for Expo. It is a great heritage building in the city and the renovations will include refurbishing the subway, platform upgrades, the installation of new lighting, landscaping and electronic train information displays. This is the sixth busiest station inbound in mornings and outbound in afternoons, with more than 3,500 passengers using it during the two peak periods during the day.

If we want to see patronage increase on our rail network, we need modern stations and that is what this renovation program is all about. Eagle Junction station will be virtually unrecognisable after a \$10 million revamp, which is now in progress. The station is not only one of the busiest on the suburban network but also the first station seen by visitors arriving in our city by the Airtrain. So it is important that it reflects the vibrancy of our capital city. This will not simply be a makeover; it will be a transformation of an ageing station into a modern, user-friendly facility that delivers what passengers want.

Ipswich commuters will also reap the benefits of our commitment to station upgrades. Work will be carried out at the Bundamba, Dinmore, Ebbw Vale and Riverview stations. An amount of \$1.1 million will go to Bundamba station for work such as painting of the heritage listed shelter on platform 2 and the drop-off zone. The Morningside station is also in line for a \$1 million upgrade.

Since 1 July this year, when the old Queensland Rail split into two separate entities, the new QR has been an entirely passenger focused organisation. They have been out on platforms talking to their passengers about what their passengers want and these sorts of upgrades are important to the people who are the clients of Queensland Rail. I am delighted to see them taking such a passenger focus and I look forward to seeing this first step in a new era of passenger rail take shape over coming months.