




Speech By
Hon. Tim Nicholls

MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Projects Queensland

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade) (2.20 pm): I want to inform the House of yet another great deal for Queenslanders being secured by Projects Queensland. On Monday, along with the Premier and the Minister for Transport, we announced that the Bombardier Consortium had been named the successful tenderer for the government's new generation rolling stock project. The Bombardier NGR Consortium is comprised of Bombardier Transportation Australia, John Laing, ITOCHU Corporation and Uberior.

This project will deliver 75 new six-car trains for the Queensland fleet. Projects Queensland has been responsible for negotiating the deal, which represents Queensland's largest ever order of new rolling stock. The deal also includes maintenance of the trains for around 30 years in a new purpose-built facility at Wulkuraka, near the town of Ipswich in the electorate of Ipswich West. The member for Ipswich West was also at the announcement. I acknowledge his presence there as well.

While contract details are still being finalised, we know that we will secure these trains for well below the cost paid by the previous government of around \$13 million for each three-car train set. Unlike those opposite, we have remembered to put in the seats as well as the carriages, and the air conditioning will fit into the tunnels as well. We actually have trains that passengers will want to ride on this time around and we are including that in the cost. They are not afterthoughts or optional extras.

The project will be delivered through an availability PPP, meaning the upfront cost will be borne by the private sector with the government paying over time for the use of the trains and facilities. The new generation rolling stock project is just one more example of the work of Projects Queensland in securing private investment so we can deliver front-line services.

This project, like a number of others, had been lying in the doldrums under Labor since 2008, floundering because of the inaction and inability of those opposite. It has taken a can-do government to get this project off the drawing board and into action. It was the same with the Government Wireless Network. In September, Projects Queensland delivered a contract for this vital service to connect our emergency services through an integrated digital network. Labor had been trying to get that one off the ground since 2005.

Whether it is these projects, the Toowoomba second range crossing, 1 William Street or the public-private partnership for 10 new schools, Projects Queensland is delivering for the people. Instead of the haphazard, knee-jerk approach of those opposite, Projects Queensland is putting proposals through a rigorous and measured process. The hardworking officers of Projects Queensland ensure this government's policy decisions are implemented effectively and efficiently. They are delivering projects that are innovative and cost effective for Queensland taxpayers.

We came to government promising better planning, better infrastructure and revitalised front-line services for Queensland. Projects Queensland is playing a central role in delivering on that outcome. I thank the hardworking officers, and in particular the outgoing director of Projects Queensland, Mr David Stewart, who has recently left to head up transport in New South Wales, for their hard work in ensuring Queensland remains a great state of great opportunity.