




Speech By
Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR SANDGATE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

New Generation Rollingstock, Wulkuraka Maintenance Centre

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games) (9.57 am): What a great day I had with the member for Ipswich West, the assistant minister and member for Ipswich and the more than 1,500 people at the official opening of the New Generation Rollingstock maintenance centre at Wulkuraka on the weekend. Together we opened a facility which generated 500 full-time jobs for Ipswich and the Brisbane region during construction. We also announced that there will be 150 ongoing full-time jobs at this centre and up to 1,500 indirect jobs supporting the NGR project when it is operational, and I am pleased to say that that date gets closer with the arrival this week of the first NGR train into the Port of Brisbane. In the coming days the first train will be moved to the maintenance centre at Wulkuraka, where it will undergo comprehensive testing and commissioning. Following this comprehensive testing, the first NGR is expected to enter the South-East Queensland passenger rail network in the second half of 2016. As the new trains begin to roll out across the network, there will be a boost in overall size of the SEQ rail fleet by 30 per cent, and it is important for those opposite to remember that the NGR project was commenced under a Labor government.

The need for these trains and additional capacity was also identified by a Labor government, because it is Labor governments in Queensland that invest in public transport infrastructure and services based on a long-term vision for the future. We are the public transport party.

Yesterday, I noted with interest the comment made by the former treasurer, the member for Clayfield, that Labor does not support private-public partnership investment deals. What a load of nonsense. It was in May 2011 that a Labor government struck a PPP arrangement to deliver the Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 1. That is not to mention a few other PPPs, including a certain major infrastructure project that the member and I had a lot to do with a while back. We strike these arrangements for one purpose: to deliver them—not just talk about them, not scrap them and muck around on segways but get them done. Whether it is delivering stage 1 or stage 2 of the Gold Coast Light Rail, delivering rail services to the Redcliffe peninsula, duplicating the Coomera-Helensvale rail line, or cutting up the botched TTC card, Labor is the party that invests in public transport and creates a culture of public transport use.

Whilst we build, those opposite just want to tear down, neglect and destroy. What is the LNP's legacy in transport? A botched bureaucratic nightmare in the TTC card, two million fewer trips on public transport on its watch and the absolute hash that it made of the BaT tunnel fantasy. I think that we can all agree that the former government and the former minister, the member for Indooroopilly, was all segway and no action.