




Speech By
Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR SANDGATE

Record of Proceedings, 26 May 2016

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Public Transport Infrastructure

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games) (10.09 am): The excitement is building for the 2018 Commonwealth Games and our government is determined to make sure that the world sees what world-class facilities Queensland has to offer. That includes our infrastructure and upgrades, such as the vital new Coomera to Helensvale rail duplication, which will provide significantly improved service capacity and reliability for the residents of the region. I can advise the House that last week I announced that the Palaszczuk government is investing \$10 million to refurbish six key stations on the Gold Coast rail line to improve train station facilities ahead of the 2018 Commonwealth Games. The Ormeau, Coomera, Helensvale, Nerang, Robina and Varsity Lakes stations will all be refurbished over the next two years. This improvement project will support about 30 new job opportunities for Queenslanders in the construction industry, including in trades such as electrical, carpentry, painting, plumbing, roofing and tiling. Station buildings will be revamped with a fresh lick of paint and upgraded amenities, as well as new signage, CCTV and passenger information displays. The pedestrian subway at Coomera station is set to be completely retiled and the footbridge at the Ormeau station upgraded, while modernisation works will be carried out on the lifts at the Coomera and Nerang stations.

As South-East Queensland's population continues to expand and the games approach, the state government is committed to investing in public transport infrastructure. Works will be completed mostly outside of peak travelling times to minimise inconvenience to passengers and the finished product will be a comfortable, modern environment for local customers and visitors alike. These station upgrades, along with peak time trains between the Gold Coast and Brisbane every 7½ minutes when the rail duplication is complete and the second stage of the light rail project will ensure that the region is fitted out with the rail structure that is needed for the future. The Palaszczuk government is delivering not only a seamless journey to and from the Gold Coast but also a journey of comfort, convenience and quality when moving around the Gold Coast.

I know that Borobi, the game's blue koala mascot, is known for arriving by helicopter or by surfboard. I am advised that he also has a soft spot for other forms of travel. Yesterday, Borobi was at the Gold Coast Airport greeting visitors to the state in a demonstration of his enthusiasm for the games, with 678 days to go. I know Borobi has a soft spot for rail travel as well. We may soon see him riding the rails in Queensland, boarding and alighting at many fine stations, including those on the Gold Coast line.