




Speech By
Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR SANDGATE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Moreton Bay Rail Link

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games) (2.27 pm): I am delighted to announce that Moreton Bay's biggest public infrastructure project in more than a generation, the Moreton Bay Rail Link, will open on Tuesday, 4 October. I can reassure the community that the project is powering full steam ahead and in 34 days locals in the region will be able to hop on a train from one of the six new stations in their backyard. Passenger services will officially start on Tuesday, 4 October. However, I am pleased to inform the House that first there will be an open day event on the public holiday, Monday, 3 October, for the community to join in the celebration.

It is not hyperbole to describe MBRL as a once-in-a-generation project. First talked about in the late 19th century, the new line has been well over 100 years in the making and will transform communities along the 12.6 kilometre corridor. With six new train stations at Kallangur, Murrumba Downs, Mango Hill, Mango Hill East, Rothwell and Kippa-Ring, we will be throwing open the gates for neighbours and community members to tour and inspect the new stations as part of the open day celebrations.

As I said, the Moreton Bay region has waited more than 100 years for this rail line to be built, so it is only fitting that they will be the VIPs at this community celebration. Locals will be able to orientate themselves around the new stations, inspect the facilities and services, and even try out the new shared pathway. On the day, they will also be able to catch a free return train service between Kippa-Ring and Petrie stations, which will stop at all stations and allow them to hop on and off to visit community information stalls, food stalls and entertainment along the new line.

The start of passenger rail services on MBRL will also usher in a new-look bus timetable. The bus network changes will support and complement the new MBRL train timetable and achieve a better integrated public transport network for the Moreton Bay region, delivering more buses and high-frequency services and improve transport connections across the community.

When the line opens there will be more than 650 train services between Kippa-Ring and Brisbane each week—trains every six to 12 minutes in the morning and afternoon peaks and trains every 30 minutes off peak and during weekends. The new-look timetable will improve the way locals use public transport in the region with an additional 261 bus services a week and a range of new options, including additional early morning and night-time services and an increased span of operating hours on the six additional routes every weekday.

There will also be more buses on the weekends, with increased operating hours on eight routes throughout the region. Locals will also have better access to weekend buses and 98 per cent of residents will be within a 400-metre walk of a Sunday service. There will be an extra 157 trips each weekday and an additional 104 trips every weekend. This means overnight from when the train line opens four times the number of residents will have better access to public transport services.

I encourage the community to join us for the open day on Monday, 3 October. They will be joined by representatives from our co-funders—the Moreton Bay Regional Council and the Australian government. I know the members for Redcliffe, Pine Rivers, Kallangur and Murrumba will all be there to share in the celebration with locals on this historic occasion. I wish to acknowledge the member for Redcliffe, the Attorney-General, in particular noting the key role she has played in delivering this much anticipated and very welcome piece of infrastructure.