




Speech By
Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR SANDGATE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Public Transport, Infrastructure

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games) (2.42 pm): The Palaszczuk government is committed to improving public transport infrastructure by investing in the future. I wish to advise the House of the Palaszczuk government's investment, announced last week, of more than \$67 million to revitalise Queensland Rail's Brisbane Central station to protect its rich history and deliver a fresh new look. The three-year program of works will support 750 construction jobs across a range of professions. Not only will Brisbane's busiest station get a fresh new look; the upgrade will make it easier for passengers to move around the station, with more accessible platforms including new lifts and escalators to reduce congestion. These improvements are essential to cater for growth and build the railway services we need for the future.

The upgrade of Central station is only one element of Queensland Rail's \$767.8 million capital investment program for 2016-17 that will see improved infrastructure right across its network. This investment includes \$460 million for improving network assets across the state and \$247 million for rolling stock related investment that will ensure Queensland Rail continues to provide customers with a safe, efficient and reliable service.

There are also a number of major projects on the go, including the European Train Control System, the new signalling system that will completely modernise the inner-city rail network, boosting rail capacity by 20 per cent and allowing an extra 12,000 commuters through the CBD during peak rail periods. Some \$100 million is being invested to improve efficiency and reliability on the north coast line by extending passing loops. These upgrade works will further increase productivity and efficiency for freight transport.

Queensland Rail also continues to deliver the \$212 million Station Accessibility Upgrade Program, which started in the 2015-16 financial year, to upgrade 14 stations over five years. Major construction works are already underway at Alderley, Newmarket, Dinmore, Graceville and Nambour stations. The improvements to the stations include new footbridges and lifts, high-level platforms to provide easier access where the assisted boarding point is located, accessible toilets, extended waiting shelters and a range of other accessibility features such as hearing aid loops. Upgrading these stations will improve transport options for passengers with accessibility requirements and help ensure all passengers can travel on Queensland Rail's network safely and easily. Planning works are underway to upgrade Strathpine, Boondall and Morayfield stations, with works expected to commence next year. The Palaszczuk government's investment in Queensland Rail demonstrates its commitment to building a better Queensland.