




Speech By
Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR SANDGATE

Record of Proceedings, 15 September 2016

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Commonwealth Games, Nerang Mountain Bike Trail

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games) (10.13 am): I am pleased to inform the House that our \$320 million Commonwealth Games venue construction program is on track and on budget. This week marked another exciting milestone on our journey towards the games with the start of construction on the new Nerang mountain bike trails. When this project is completed at the end of the year, the new trails will be the first international standard mountain bike trails in South-East Queensland.

Nerang National Park is already a popular mountain biking destination for the region's cycling community, with thousands enjoying the existing trails every week. There is no doubt the mountain biking community will make the most of the new facilities next year, ahead of the Commonwealth's best riders arriving in April 2018. The new course, measuring approximately 4.5 kilometres in length, will be a mixture of new and upgraded trails, guaranteeing a cross-country Olympic standard mountain bike course. It will include fast-flow trails and slow-speed steep and technical trails.

Industry-leading Australian company Dirt Art is teaming up with Gold Coast track builder Nathan Rennie to construct the trails. This partnership will ensure the delivery of another world-class venue for the games. Nathan's expertise, gained through racing in international competitions for more than 10 years, and local knowledge will be invaluable for the project. Dirt Art have delivered more than the 2,000 kilometres of trails for a wide variety of projects throughout Australia and around the world and are experts in the field of mountain bike trail design and construction. The team have extensive experience working in reserve bushland.

The Nerang mountain bike trails are being constructed as part of a \$3.2 million project which also included major upgrades at the Gold Coast Cycle Centre. Earlier this year Toowoomba based company FKG Group completed the upgrade work to provide improved facilities for competitors and spectators. The vital work they perform now ensures the venue is accessible to people with disabilities. The refurbishment included upgrades to the clubhouse, improvements to car park facilities, a new amenities block and a new spectacular viewing platform, from which there are great views of the existing outdoor velodrome and criterium track.

The Palaszczuk government has made it a priority to ensure that local businesses and workers benefit from the venue construction program. It is great to see a local trail builder engaged in this project. This project alone has created up to 10 full-time equivalent jobs during design and construction. We are looking forward to all of these developments in the lead-up to the games in 2018.