




Speech By
Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR SANDGATE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Redcliffe Peninsula Rail Line

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games) (10.00 am): I am delighted that Moreton Bay residents turned out in force on Monday, 3 October for a community open day to celebrate the opening of the new Redcliffe peninsula train line. It was over 100 years in the making and we have delivered it. I cannot discuss the Redcliffe peninsula line without thanking the decade-long advocacy of one person in particular, that is, the Attorney-General. The Attorney-General has been present for every piece of lobbying, every piece of progress and every up and down on this project. It was a pleasure to join her and all of our special guests to celebrate the line opening last Monday week.

Ms Trad: Including the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: Indeed, including the Leader of the Opposition. I will mention him later. The community day was a chance to thank the people of Moreton Bay for their patience while this transformative piece of infrastructure was built. More than 5,000 people attended the community day and were able to experience the six new train stations and their facilities, and also ride along the 12.6 kilometre line.

I can report to the House that this project has been warmly embraced by the people of the Moreton Bay region. Further to the patronage numbers reported to the House on Tuesday by the Premier, I can inform the House that more than 40,000 passenger trips have been taken to and from the six new train stations in the first full week of service. Kippa-Ring and Mango Hill train stations have been the most popular, with about 14,000 and 7,000 passenger trips respectively last week. We expect that patronage will continue to grow in coming weeks as customers try out all the new rail services and become accustomed to the new bus network. Daily along the new line we have seen more than 800 customers transferring between local bus services and trains. The bus network has an additional 157 trips each weekday, with 17 bus services connecting to Kallangur, Murrumba Downs, Mango Hill, Rothwell and Kippa-Ring stations along the new Redcliffe peninsula line.

It is deeply gratifying that people have already embraced this new transport infrastructure and are using it daily. The Redcliffe peninsula line is a connection from the peninsula to the entire Queensland Rail network. In addition, the line itself will trigger economic development along the corridor, bringing more jobs and opportunities to the region. For the first time ever the people of Moreton Bay are now connected to a fast and reliable rail service, with a journey to the Brisbane CBD taking less than an hour. From next year, the rail trip will become even cheaper under our Fairer Fares reform package. The people of the Moreton Bay region have been waiting the longest for a rail service, but they will have the shortest wait for a fare cut.

The community day was a terrific chance for local residents to ride on and explore the new line and the new stations from Petrie through to Kippa-Ring. I congratulate the lucky ballot winners who had the chance to join community leaders and advocates on the first service out of Kippa-Ring. As the Premier said earlier this week, they were really excited about it. I thank the Premier, Deputy Premier, Attorney-General, the members for Kallangur, Pine Rivers, Murrumba and Pumicestone and, indeed, the Leader of the Opposition for attending the event. I thank Mayor Allan Sutherland and the federal government for their support of the project. It was wonderful to see all three levels of government coming together to make this project happen. It was very gratifying for those involved in initiating the project that the Prime Minister acknowledged the role that the then transport minister, Anthony Albanese, and the then treasurer, Wayne Swan, had in initiating and delivering the project. It was very gratifying for those people to be acknowledged by today's Prime Minister.

Finally, I place on *Hansard* my thanks to the Department of Transport and Main Roads, Queensland Rail and all of the staff involved for working together to deliver this more than once in a generation project. It is a fantastic achievement for the government, but it is an even greater achievement for the people of the Moreton Bay region. As the Premier said, this is their railway.