




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Transport Infrastructure

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.48 am): The Palaszczuk government is committed to delivering a successful Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games, the largest sporting event in Queensland's history. With over 600,000 visitors coming to the coast and over a million tickets sold, we are planning for an extra six million trips across the transport network during the games. When we came to government in 2015, it was clear that there was a lot of work still to be done to get ready for the largest sporting event in Australia in over a decade. Years of planning and hard work have gone into ensuring that this transport plan can support a successful Commonwealth Games.

Our integrated transport plan includes 24-hour light rail with six-minute frequency during peak events nine hours a day; 24-hour heavy rail, with an average train frequency of 10 minutes or better, with up to eight trains per hour during large crowd events; 24-hour high-frequency shuttle bus services linking major venues and precincts; and an extra 4,000 daily Surfside bus services. None of that would have been possible without the Palaszczuk government's billion-dollar investment in transport infrastructure on the Gold Coast. There is also the \$420 million Light Rail Stage 2, funded and built in record time in the first term of the Palaszczuk government; a \$163 million duplication of the heavy rail from Helensvale to Coomera, which is absolutely fundamental and crucial to delivering eight trains per hour; and over \$350 million invested in Gold Coast road upgrades, including the Southport-Burleigh road and Smith Street Motorway.

These investments by the Palaszczuk government set us up for success during the games and also provides long-term legacy benefits for every Gold Coast resident. We have always said that there would be adjustments across the South-East Queensland network during the Commonwealth Games. We have ensured there will be sustainable and reliable services across the South-East Queensland network and all rail lines will remain open during the games period. Last year we also announced a suite of initiatives to improve reliability and safety on the M1, including a reduction of speed limits between the M1-M3 merge and Gaven, starting on 1 March.

The games will be an exciting time for the Gold Coast and for Queensland. In its first term the Palaszczuk government delivered the key infrastructure and services required to support a successful Commonwealth Games. I understand that patronage across the whole light rail system, which has only been running for two months, is up by 27 per cent. That is a quarter of a million extra light rail trips in only two months.