




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Transport

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.52 am): The 2018 Commonwealth Games is going to be the biggest sporting event in the nation in more than a decade and the Palaszczuk government is determined to offer spectators the best experience possible at Queensland's largest ever sporting event. With 670,000 visitors arriving next month there is no doubt that travel around the Gold Coast is going to be very different in the lead-up to and during the event. To aid with the extra demand, three new light rail stations located at Parkwood, Parkwood East and Helensvale are now open and in operation—thanks to the Palaszczuk government—and fast becoming commuter favourites. Last week, after public safety checks, the new footbridge at Parkwood opened.

There have been 510,000 more trips on the Gold Coast Light Rail network since stage 2 was launched in December and a total of 2.37 million trips have been taken on the network since paid trips started. This is a 27 per cent increase in patronage since December because of the Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 2. During the games trams will operate 24 hours a day with services running every six minutes at peak event times. We also have 24-hour train services, a tripling of services, and 24-hour bus services on the bus line linking key venues and precincts.

As well as responding to the anticipated extra demand on the public transport system, last year we announced a suite of initiatives to reduce congestion and improve reliability and safety on the M1. The initiative relating to trucks using the left lane has been in place since last August. An independent assessment by the Australian Road Research Board found that the risk associated with speed variability and lane changing is down 68 per cent and traffic flow has improved markedly and compliance is now up to 96 per cent by trucks in terms of the left-lane initiative—a huge boost to safety on the M1. Speed limit restrictions between the Gateway merge and Gaven have also proven successful. I am pleased to report that in the first week of March, out of a total of 750,000 trips taken during that time, there were only 213 speeding infringements issued. I say a big thank you to all those M1 motorists who have complied with the new provisions and increased safety on the M1 in the lead-up to the games.

While still being refined, early data from the trial is also showing a promising 50 per cent reduction in total recorded crashes on the M1 and a reduction of recorded incident length, down from about an hour to just 17 minutes, with more traffic flow as a result! A comprehensive review into the effectiveness and performance of all M1 management initiatives will take place at the completion of the games. Speed limits will return to normal after the games on Tuesday, 17 April.

Following the launch of the Commonwealth Games Journey Planner I encourage ticketholders to plan ahead in terms of their travel to the games and to use the free public transport available to them. It will be the easiest way to get to the games and I am sure it will be a good experience for many. The games journey planner will provide a seamless end-to-end journey including public transport, shuttle service locations and event schedules, cycling, walking and it will also help to locate park-and-ride

locations and enable commuters to book a park. I note that thousands of spectators have already done so and they can continue to do so as the games get closer. There have been more than 3,300 bookings already and there are still more than 100,000 bookings available at our park-and-rides for those people who do need to drive.