



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Bailey**


**MEMBER FOR MILLER**

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Record of Proceedings, 22 March 2018

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**

**Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Transport**

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.50 am): The Commonwealth Games are only 13 days away and what an exciting time it will be. When the Palaszczuk government came to office in 2015, one of our key challenges, identified early in the piece, was the lack of infrastructure planning and funding for the Gold Coast leading up to the Commonwealth Games. This was the void the LNP left us only three years from the Commonwealth Games opening ceremony.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members! Minister for the Commonwealth Games, I know this is something you and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition are very passionate about, but I will not tolerate this crossfire that we have been seeing in the chamber.

**Mr BAILEY:** With a tight time frame, with only three years to the opening ceremony, we acted on these infrastructure issues to ensure that the 670,000 visitors coming for the games will get there. In our first term as a minority government we secured funding and built stage 2 of the light rail project worth \$420 million, the majority of which came from the state government. It was built in 18 months flat and links the heavy rail at Helensvale with the first stage of the light rail at the Gold Coast University Hospital, seamlessly linking Broadbeach with Brisbane by rail. We acted quickly to duplicate the heavy rail line between Coomera and Helensvale without which we would not be able to triple the trains for the games and run up to eight trains per hour.

Gold Coast roads also got a massive \$353 million injection by Labor, including upgrades to the Gooding Drive roundabout, Olsen Avenue, Southport-Burleigh Road, Nerang-Broadbeach Road and the Smith Street Motorway, and we started and finished the \$74 million upgrade of the Coomera interchange at exit 54. Almost \$1 billion worth of infrastructure investment has been delivered on the Gold Coast by this Labor government, not just for the games but as a lasting legacy for Gold Coast residents for decades to come.

We have also started the early M1 works between Mudgeeraba and Varsity Lakes and at the Gateway merge. Given the long lead-in times and build times that are required for these huge projects, the decision by the previous LNP government to not spend a single new dollar on the M1 was a major betrayal of Gold Coast residents. There is no doubt that travel around the Gold Coast for the games is going to be very different in the lead-up to the games and during the games.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr BAILEY:** Mr Speaker, there are too many interjections from an opposition that has not supported the games.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, I will not take instruction from the floor. I remind all honourable members that this is a time to listen to matters of government policy and public affairs but it is not a time for debate. If there are questions to be asked of the government it will happen during question time.

**Mr BAILEY:** The key is being well informed in terms of preparing for the games, planning ahead and giving yourself extra travel time due to the number of visitors in the area. Now is the time to get online and check out what is happening. Whether you are going to the games or not, travel is going to be very different for the fortnight of the Commonwealth Games. It will be an exciting and a memorable time in the Gold Coast's history with 24-hour bus, 24-hour light rail and 24-hour heavy rail services as well as a huge free cultural program as part of the biggest sporting event in the nation in a decade.