




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Public Transport, Infrastructure

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.57 am): Under the Palaszczuk Labor government we are seeing public transport commuter patronage grow. The latest numbers are very positive and show that 5.4 million more public transport trips were taken across the region in 2017-18 compared to 2016-17, which is a 3.1 per cent increase. Lower fares for commuters introduced by the Palaszczuk Labor government are making a difference, but cheaper transport is only one barrier to growing patronage. Our government is committed to making public transport more accessible.

Across South-East Queensland there are 152 rail stations on the network, and some of these stations are more than a century old. Many more were built before modern disability legislation. Modernising historic stations is a significant undertaking by the Palaszczuk Labor government, as we are committed to every rail commuter being able to use their local train station without barriers. We are committed to the principle of universal accessibility by investing \$300 million to upgrade 16 stations. Queensland Rail's Station Accessibility Upgrade program has already delivered improvements at Graceville, Dinmore, Nambour, Alderley and Newmarket stations for commuters. Construction will soon start at Morayfield, Boondall and Strathpine, and upgrades are planned for stations at Dakabin, Buranda, Albion, Cannon Hill, Auchenflower, East Ipswich and Loganlea. Work is planned or underway right across the south-east, including the installation of lifts, raised platforms to assist boarding, pedestrian overpasses, tactile flooring, ramps, hearing aid loops and accessible toilets.

As a government that values the views of our community, we seek feedback and input on the design of these facilities. Queensland Rail seeks guidance from members of its Accessibility Reference Group, which includes representatives from Guide Dogs Queensland, Vision Australia, Queenslanders with Disability Network, the MS society, Spinal Life Australia, Arthritis Queensland and Better Hearing Australia. I sincerely thank all of those representatives who put forward their experience and collaborated with the government and Queensland Rail.

The upgrades in this program will increase the number of independently accessible stations on the network from 80 to 91. Once these projects are complete, 83 per cent of rail commuters will travel to and from accessible stations.

Station upgrades are not our only commitment to commuters. We committed \$114 million to build or expand park-and-rides across the south-east. That commitment will add 2,300 new spaces at nine locations to the 30,000 parks already provided at 159 park-and-rides across the TransLink train, bus, ferry and tram network.

More people are riding trains, buses, ferries and trams, and that passenger growth has gained momentum due to the introduction of Fairer Fares in late 2016 by the Palaszczuk government. By reducing the average adult fare by about 13.5 per cent compared to January 2014 levels, Fairer Fares has encouraged more people to give public transport a go and saved families more than \$117 million.

Concessions and discounts for veterans, jobseekers and asylum seekers also ensure public transport is accessible to those who may rely on it the most. To support the centenary of armistice services on 11 November, the Palaszczuk government will provide free public transport for uniformed serving Australian Defence Force personnel and veterans wearing their service medals. Accompanying family members wearing service medals will also travel free. I offer my thanks to the Redlands RSL, which proposed this excellent idea to acknowledge our veterans and their contribution to our community.