




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON

Record of Proceedings, 28 February 2019

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Electric Tilt Train

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (2.03 pm): On Tuesday, 6 November last year the electric tilt train service to Rockhampton turned 20. Over the past two decades, the electric tilt train fleet has become part of the fabric of regional Queensland, travelling almost 12 million kilometres and transporting more than 200,000 customers between Rockhampton and Brisbane each year. The tilt train fleet was a real hit when it was introduced. Able to travel at speeds of up to 160 kilometres per hour, the service quickly replaced the lengthy car trips between Central Queensland and the south-east, with easier and more comfortable options.

What made it so special compared to traditional trains was that it used groundbreaking technology from Japan that allowed it to approach curves at speed without making passengers feel like they were going to roll out of their seats. The introduction of the tilt train fleet also provided boosts for many of the communities along the route. Manufactured at what is now Downer's rail facility in Maryborough, the trains were made by Queenslanders to connect Queenslanders. It was also an investment into the Maryborough community and their workforce.

For the Rockhampton area alone, the fleet has injected upwards of \$4 million a year in the local economy—bringing in tourists, connecting locals like never before with health care, family and friends, and giving long-distance workers a new, affordable and quick way to travel. The tilt train remains the most utilised service on the Queensland Rail fleet and is as popular today as when it was introduced 20 years ago. The tilt train offers a 7½-hour journey between Rockhampton and Brisbane, which is comparable to car travel but with the added relaxation of on-board meals and beverages as well as in-seat visual and audio entertainment. Queensland Rail recently invested more than \$28 million to refurbish the entire tilt train fleet, giving the trains a mid-life mechanical overhaul and bringing in up-to-date technology like wi-fi and USB charging ports.

Here are some fast facts about the City of Rockhampton tilt train. It has travelled in excess of six million kilometres to date. Its maximum speed is 170 kilometres per hour. The angle of the car body tilt is five degrees maximum in each direction. The number of carriages is six, the length of the cabs is 23 metres, and the length of the passenger cars is 21.5 metres. I extend a special thanks to all those involved in the delivery of this great service to Queensland.