




Speech By
Leanne Linard

MEMBER FOR NUDGEES

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ADJOURNMENT

Nudgee Electorate, Rail Services

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (7.03 pm): Today's announcement by the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Mark Bailey, of additional peak time rail services is a welcome one for commuters across my electorate. From Monday, 13 May Queensland Rail will add 32 extra weekly services at peak times and 14,000 seats to South-East Queensland's network. Locally, key services added include a 7.39 am Shorncliffe-Central service operating Monday to Thursday—I know it directly impacts and benefits the member for Sandgate's electorate also—adding to the existing Friday service, in addition to a 7.10 am Kippa-Ring-Central service operating Monday to Friday. A new 6.58 am Central-Shorncliffe service will also operate Monday to Thursday, adding to the existing Friday service. These additional services come after 46,000 weekly seats were added to the region's rail network last December, with the upgrade of 193 three-carriage trains to six-carriage trains, which was also a significant and welcome improvement for commuters across my local community—particularly so at Nundah station, where capacity issues were being felt by commuters.

I appreciate that delivering a new or altered train timetable is a complex task involving managing train crew resources and rostering, planning, the stabling and maintenance of trains, and scheduling daily train movements. My community has been calling out for additional peak time services, particularly at the Nundah, Toombul, Banyo and Nudgee stations, making today's announcement exactly what my community has been calling for and I have been fighting for. This is just the start.

These additional services will be followed by further timetable improvements later this year, following the largest driver recruitment and training campaign in Queensland Rail's history. Some 76 drivers are in training, adding to the 136 drivers who have completed their qualifications and are working on the network, representing a net increase of 73 after attrition. NGR trains are continuing to roll out on the network too, with 51 now available for service, adding to the gradual improvement to services that commuters are seeing.

It is not lost on me or on the people living across my electorate, or the thousands moving into our community, that the Nudgee electorate, with 12 train stations, is well serviced by public transport. It also means that additional services and improvements to the rail network are keenly felt by and are of significant importance to my community. I take this opportunity to thank Minister Mark Bailey, as well as the former ministers for transport—Stirling Hinchliffe and the Deputy Premier and Treasurer, Jackie Trad—who have all taken the time to visit my electorate at my request at different times to meet with and hear firsthand from commuters.

That is what advocacy is all about and that is truly why I love in my role fighting for better services and outcomes for my community. Over the past two years, our government has delivered additional commuter car parking at the Nudgee, Banyo and Nundah stations. Planning is currently underway to extend commuter parking at the Virginia and Geebung stations. We have a new pedestrian footbridge at Banyo, a police outpost at Northgate train station, and a major upgrade of Boondall rail station is underway. There is more to be done, and I look forward to the minister sharing more positive rail and timetable news later this year.