




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 13 February 2019

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Maryborough, New Generation Rollingstock

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.55 am): The Palaszczuk government is committed to supporting rail manufacturing jobs in Maryborough, a city with a long and proud tradition of Queenslanders building trains for Queenslanders. We make no apologies for ensuring that from this year Maryborough will be the central hub for delivering vital modification works for our state's NGR train fleet. Over the next five years staff at Downer EDI's Maryborough factory will undertake modifications to make the NGR fleet one of the most accessible in the country. This means long-term job opportunities for the Maryborough region and for the around 300 Downer staff.

Last month I had the pleasure of visiting Maryborough to join the member for Maryborough and Downer EDI staff in welcoming the first NGR train to Maryborough. The member for Maryborough knows there has been a renewed sense of optimism across the community since we confirmed in December that this work would come to town. We gave our word to the people of Maryborough that this work would be done in their town and we will honour that commitment. The Premier made it clear that this government would lead the way in terms of prioritising jobs for Queenslanders. The Buy Queensland policy puts local jobs first, and we are doing the same with this contract with Downer for the NGR fleet.

The rectification of these trains, designed in close consultation with the disability sector, also demonstrates our government's commitment to listening and delivering for everyone in our community. I have full confidence in the skill and craftsmanship of Maryborough's workforce. Staff are familiarising themselves with the layout and internal fittings of the train, readying their workshop for the first of 75 trains that will eventually roll through Maryborough. These works add to the \$157 million commitment that this government has been investing in Maryborough since 2017 to maintain and refurbish Queensland Rail's trains. As I speak, trains are in Maryborough receiving mechanical overhauls, servicing and maintenance work to support our iconic Queensland Rail regional services.

There are now 45 NGR trains out of 75 that are available for service in South-East Queensland. This has allowed Queensland Rail to provide an additional 46,000 seats on key services across the network, with six-car sets replacing three-car sets. NGR trains also began service on the Cleveland and Shorncliffe lines for the first time earlier this month. When the rectification works at Downer are in full swing, up to eight NGR trains will be undergoing modifications at one time by Maryborough workers. Work is due to start on the first train modification later this year—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, please resume your seat. Members to my left, I am listening to the minister's statement. I believe he is being quite factual and straight with his presentation. I ask that you listen to the ministerial statement. If not, please take your conversations outside.

Mr BAILEY: Work is due to start on the first train modification later this year with the expectation that all trains will be progressively upgraded and rectified by early 2024.