




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 14 February 2019

ADJOURNMENT

Public Transport

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (6.15 pm): Public transport patronage is growing strongly in South-East Queensland, with 182 million train, bus, tram and ferry trips in 2017-18—a record for public transport in the region. Halfway through the current financial year, we are on target to break that record. Data from December 2018 marks the 15th consecutive month of year-on-year patronage growth for public transport in South-East Queensland. There were almost a million more South-East Queensland public transport trips in December 2018 compared to December 2017—an increase of 6.5 per cent. In the first quarter of the 2018-19 financial year there were 49.17 million trips—that is a seven per cent increase, or about 3.3 million trips—compared with the same quarter in the previous year. We are seeing increases in bus patronage of more than two million and increases in train patronage of more than half a million. Of course, light rail is doing incredibly well in what is currently a comparatively small system, with an increase of nearly three-quarters of a million.

Confidence is returning. I am happy to report to the chamber that Canstar Blue's passenger review of national rail services placed Queensland Rail ahead of Sydney and Melbourne. South-East Queensland's rail services rated highly for reliability, timetabling and cleanliness and was the only service in the survey to be awarded five stars for safety. That is because the Palaszczuk Labor government is committed to better public transport and we invest in it. These figures do not include the extra figures due to the Commonwealth Games.

Let's compare that to the LNP. Patronage numbers dropped and plateaued under them. In fact, of the past 10 years, the three years with the lowest patronage were all years in which the LNP was in power. Its record was appalling. To this day the LNP still does not support Cross River Rail, the largest and most important public transport project in the country let alone this state.

We cut fares and we are now seeing the benefit. We are investing in Cross River Rail, new infrastructure which the LNP opposition opposed. We built light rail stage 2 in 18 months flat and we are getting the benefits. We are also investing in the Sunshine Coast rail duplication. We also duplicated Helensvale to Coomera. We are investing in public transport infrastructure. In comparison, the LNP had no new infrastructure in its three years in government. It opposed Cross River Rail. It manufactured trains overseas and not in Queensland. It presided over the three lowest years out of the last 10 years in terms of patronage. The LNP has an appalling record. Our record sees growth and confidence grow.