



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Bailey**


**MEMBER FOR MILLER**

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Record of Proceedings, 21 August 2019

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Rail Services**

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.01 am): On 29 July, 430 extra weekly train services rolled out across South-East Queensland. Those services included 85 additional trains in peak times each week and the restoration of an extra 142 services each Friday to provide a consistent timetable Monday to Friday. Coupled with an upgrade of 59 three-car sets becoming six-car sets, the rollout of more services delivered 200,000 more seats for South-East Queensland commuters each week. We need those seats because a record number of people are catching public transport in South-East Queensland—more than 189 million trips last financial year, a 3.7 per cent increase, the second record year in a row.

The return of those services has been supported by the largest recruitment campaign in Queensland Rail's history. Hard work behind the scenes to bring more train drivers and guards into the system means there are now 8,290 weekly rail services, more than 700 additional services than were operating at any time under the previous Newman LNP government. I would like to thank the hardworking Queensland Rail staff: our drivers, our guards, our station staff, our track workers and all those people in the Rail Management Centre.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr BAILEY:** Their support and efforts were crucial to those achievements. It is disappointing to hear interjections opposing my acknowledgement of the work of workers at Queensland Rail by those opposite in the LNP—very disappointing.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr BAILEY:** The Palaszczuk Labor government—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members. Please continue with your ministerial statement, Minister.

**Mr BAILEY:** The Palaszczuk Labor government continues to invest in public transport to deliver more services for commuters. That is why the Palaszczuk Labor government is entirely funding the \$5.4 billion Cross River Rail project and has \$351 million on the table for stage 3A of Gold Coast Light Rail. That is why we are developing a new smart ticketing system that will give commuters multiple ways to pay on any form of public transport across the whole state for the very first time.

The Queensland LNP's rail record was to cut services, cut the Cross River Rail project, sack workers and suspend driver training. That short-term thinking damaged confidence, patronage and capacity in our rail system that took years for our government to fix—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr Minnikin** interjected.

**Mr BAILEY:**—and the member for Chatsworth was directly responsible for some of that. At the last parliamentary sitting the opposition leader predicted that it would take 36 years to fix the mess the LNP left South-East Queenslanders. She was only 13,500 days out, again showing a lack of judgement and a clueless approach to public transport.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members. Members, the interjections will cease. Minister, I ask that you ensure that your ministerial statement is about the facts and in the public interest.

**Mr BAILEY:** Certainly, Mr Speaker. I thank you.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members to my left, I do not need your assistance. The minister has the call.

**Mr BAILEY:** In contrast, it is this Labor government that is investing in major public transport upgrades, in more drivers and in more services, which will mean more passengers into the future.