




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Public Transport, Investment

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.59 am): Public transport investment is in the fast lane under the Palaszczuk Labor government. This morning, the first trials of express ticketing gates started at Central Station as part of the Palaszczuk government's \$371 million statewide Smart Ticketing rollout. Next month, people catching buses in Innisfail, Bowen, Hervey Bay, Maryborough and Minjerrabah will be able to track the real-time journey of their bus for the first time. These trials will give Queensland commuters a first look at how our public transport investment is making their journeys better.

Smart Ticketing means people will be able to pay with their credit or debit card, smartphone or smartwatch to speed up boarding and exiting. Queenslanders will access the latest technology used by millions of commuters in London, Chicago and Vancouver. For the first time in Queensland history this will be a ticketing system for all Queenslanders and not just those in South-East Queensland.

We are also investing in Cross River Rail which will unlock the bottleneck at the core of the South-East Queensland rail network. One hundred per cent funded by the Palaszczuk Labor government, the \$5.4 billion Cross River Rail project will give us the capacity to run more services, more often.

On the Gold Coast we have \$351 million committed for the next stage of light rail to Burleigh—not an infliction, but an investment in Gold Coast jobs. We are building thousands more car parks at train and bus stations across South-East Queensland with a \$116 million park-and-ride program. Our \$357 million station upgrade program is modernising train stations across the region to make them more accessible and commuter friendly. Two years in a row of record public transport patronage shows more people want to catch trains, buses, ferries and trams. That is why public transport investment is a major feature of the Palaszczuk government's record \$23 billion roads and transport investment over the next four years.

Like any rail network around the world, occasionally technical faults can occur, and this morning's train delays have seen our hardworking staff respond as quickly as possible to fully restore services. On-time running on our rail network remains much better than Sydney or Melbourne's, but, unfortunately, not today. A signalling fault at Eagle Junction this morning resulted in some cancellations and delays to services, so I thank our passengers for their patience and sincerely apologise to those who were affected.