




Speech By
Christopher Whiting

MEMBER FOR BANCROFT

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ADJOURNMENT

Cross River Rail

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (6.04 pm): Tonight I want to talk about the most important local infrastructure project happening in the Moreton Bay area, which will take one-and-a-half hours off the weekly commute for all of our people working in the city. I am not talking about the \$150 million overpass at Deception Bay Road, which I talked about last week. Tonight I am talking about Cross River Rail. That infrastructure project will have more impact on the outer urban electorates than the inner city ones. It is our project. It is the project of the members of parliament in the Moreton Bay area, Logan, Ipswich, Redlands and the Gold Coast, because it is our people who spend the most time on the trains.

Cross River Rail is a project that will change lives in our communities. It will mean that mums and dads can spend more time with their kids and that young people can have more access to more jobs. From 2036, for our locals Cross River Rail will mean trains every five minutes in morning peak hour. It will mean that you will turn up and go, and people love that. It will mean you will be able to throw away your timetable. For the commuters of Bancroft it will mean an extra 1,800 seats every morning peak hour.

Many of the jobs of our locals are still in the city, so at this stage we still have to commute to earn our living. At this stage in South-East Queensland, most of the jobs growth is still happening in and around Brisbane and the CBD. What exactly will Cross River Rail deliver to our working commuters? It will remove the bottleneck between Roma Street and Bowen Hills, which is a crucial stretch for all northern lines. Cross River Rail will bring in a new signalling system, the ETCS or European Train Control System.

Mr Butcher: A four-letter word, mate.

Mr WHITING: It is another four-letter word and what a positive one it is for our people. The electronic system will mean that we can put more trains on the lines and there will be less time between trains.

Another thing that Cross River Rail will mean is more jobs for Queenslanders. It will unlock jobs in a range of new locations as new projects emerge along the line. I am talking about Brisbane Live, the Gabba, the Boggo Road precinct and new developments at the RNA showgrounds.

It is our project, the Palaszczuk government's project. The federal LNP is not interested in this huge infrastructure project. The LNP had been critical about this project and then they were silent. That silence will go down on their permanent record. I say to the LNP: you hindered this project; you did not help; you did not lift a finger. When we needed them to lobby the feds for money to come to Queensland, they went missing in action. However, we will keep talking about this marvellous project that we are delivering.

I say to people from my area who wait on station platforms that Cross River Rail starts where you are standing. The benefits start at your own home, at your own bus station and at your own train station.