




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Public Transport

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.11 am): It is Queenslanders who have led the nation on managing the health impacts of COVID-19. Thanks to their efforts, the Palaszczuk Labor government has been able to continue delivering Queensland's plan for economic recovery as we unite and recover. That includes getting on with a record \$24 billion transport and roads program, one that reflects the government's strong record on backing public transport. When this government was elected in 2015, we put public transport in the fast lane. On the Gold Coast we duplicated the heavy line between Helensvale and Coomera and built light rail stage 2, both in record time for Queensland's largest ever sporting event, the Commonwealth Games. We made train stations more accessible in Nambour, Newmarket, Dinmore, Graceville, Morayfield and Strathpine, with Fairfield, Yeronga, Rocklea, Salisbury, Moorooka and Yeerongpilly to come. Some 5,400 new commuter parks have been added and, thanks to the member for Maryborough, we brought train manufacturing back to the heritage city, supporting 250 local jobs and fixing trains built overseas by the LNP that were not compliant with disability standards.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BAILEY: Members opposite do not like it, but they were incompetent. Working collaboratively with the federal government, we locked in funding for projects such as the Sunshine Coast rail duplication, Gold Coast Light Rail stage 3 and M1 upgrades as part of four out of five record transport and road budgets. We implemented the largest ever recruitment of drivers in our state's history following the cuts to driver training in 2014. We fully funded and started construction on Queensland's largest infrastructure project, the \$5.4 billion Cross River Rail. Queenslanders backed that investment with two record years of public transport patronage before the COVID crisis hit.

The Palaszczuk Labor government has not slowed down. As part of our COVID-safe public transport plan we have kept full services running, because we know how our essential workers and their families depend upon it. We have rolled out hand sanitiser at stations, ramped up cleaning and rolled out 1,000 extra bus and train services—and we never called for our borders to be opened 64 times! Today, there are more trains services running than ever before in Queensland. There are some 8,427 weekly services, 810 more than in 2015. That is nearly 10 per cent more than when we were first elected.

For the first time ever, Queenslanders will soon have a statewide smart ticketing system, making public transport more accessible. Wherever people live in Queensland they will have one system of payment. We are building three new train stations as part of Cross River Rail on the Gold Coast and another eight new train stations between Burleigh Heads and Broadbeach for stage 3 of the light rail to prevent gridlock on the Gold Coast and to create jobs.

To support Queensland manufacturing jobs over the next decade, another \$300 million worth of train upgrades and maintenance will be carried out at Downer's Maryborough rail hub. Shovels will soon hit the ground on the Sunshine Coast rail duplication, and there are even more station upgrades such as at Banyo, which I was happy to announce with the member for Nudgee yesterday.

While patronage on public transport is down at the moment as Queensland continues to manage the health impacts of COVID-19, Queenslanders can be assured that, when they return to the system, the Palaszczuk government and the thousands of workers who keep our public transport network running will have their backs. On 31 October Queenslanders have a clear choice: those opposite, who cut \$1.6 billion from Queensland transport and roads and ordered trains from overseas, or the Palaszczuk Labor government's economic plan that includes building better public transport, supporting the train manufacturing jobs of Queensland workers and backing public transport right across the state.