




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 23 February 2021

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Cross River Rail

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.55 am): If 2020 was the year of demolition to make way for Cross River Rail, 2021 is the year we carve out, tunnel and build the largest ever passenger rail project in Queensland. There will be two rail tunnels, three stations on the Gold Coast, four new underground stations, 5.9 kilometres of tunnels, six road headers, 7,700 jobs, eight station upgrades, 95 per cent local workers on tunnels and stations, 10 kilometres of rail line and zero dollars from the Morrison LNP government. That is why the Palaszczuk government's \$5.4 billion Cross River Rail project is not just transforming our public transport network; it is creating jobs in existing and new industries and opportunities for hundreds of local businesses, all driving our state's economic recovery plan from the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the past two months I have inspected works that people above ground cannot see: the construction at the Albert Street and Dutton Park sites, the start of tunnel boring at the Gabba site and the transformation of the Exhibition station, which I inspected with the Minister for Education and member for McConnel. I have met with hundreds of workers who are building this project from the underground up, such as the crew of 15 that is skilfully guiding our two 1,350-tonne boring machines, which are named after two wonderful women in Queensland history.

So far, 2,400 people have been able to secure stable and long-term jobs because of this project. Queenslanders looking to upskill have been able to cut their teeth on a world-class project with 450 apprenticeships and traineeships, including 17-year-old apprentice Samuel Scheeres who is getting the opportunity of a lifetime to work and learn as the machines tunnel from the Gabba, under the river and towards the Brisbane CBD. Eight hundred Queensland businesses, both big and small, have supplied resources, equipment and skills. Those include businesses such as Fencepac on the Sunshine Coast, which I am sure enjoys support from the members for Caloundra and Nicklin, the Wagners company through its concrete facility at Wacol, and Beenleigh Steel Fabrications in the Woodridge electorate, to name but a few.

Cross River Rail is a key part of our state's economic recovery from COVID. Every day it injects more than \$4 million into our state's economy. We will see that benefit continue for generations to come, including of course through the trains we will build in Maryborough, Queensland for the Cross River Rail project. The Palaszczuk Labor government is the only party with a plan for economic recovery from COVID, a plan to create jobs and a plan to build a better public transport network with a record \$26.9 billion transport and roads budget. We are getting on with the job. They laugh at the jobs and infrastructure that we are building, but we are getting on with it.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Thank you, Minister.

Mr BAILEY: We are not cutting; we are building.

(Time expired)