




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Cross River Rail

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.02 am): To see progress, some would say, 'Look to the skyline and count the cranes,' but in Queensland you will need to look deep below the surface as well—in fact, 30 metres below—because right now there is an underground movement creating jobs and shaping Queensland's public transport system, and that of course is the Palaszczuk government's \$5.4 billion Cross River Rail project. This is a 10.2-kilometre new rail line, including six kilometres of twin rail tunnels under the Brisbane River and four new underground stations, driving our economic recovery from COVID-19 and making Queensland the place to be.

At Boggo Road, Woolloongabba, Albert Street and Roma Street, hundreds of workers are right now building the new Brisbane underground tunnels and new stations. From tunnellers, rock bolters, shotcreters to roadhead operators, electricians and mechanical tradespeople, Cross River Rail has the earth moving under our feet and creating 7,700 overall jobs throughout the life of the project.

Last week I had the pleasure of joining the Premier and the Minister for Education to inspect progress at the new Roma Street station. There, the 100-strong crew has already excavated 400 metres of tunnels and caverns and it is quite a sight to see. Among them are 15 apprentices, including two apprentices called Bailey and Grace whom both myself and the member for McConnel had the pleasure of meeting, and I inform the House that we are unrelated! To date, workers have dug a mammoth 128,000 tonnes of earth to make way for the new Roma Street station 27 metres below ground level with 220-metre-long platforms. With tunnel operations taking place 24/7, the station cavern will be complete by the time our two massive tunnel-boring machines break through at Roma Street.

Queensland is the place to be because of projects like Cross River Rail. Our \$56 billion infrastructure guarantee over the next four years is creating thousands of jobs for businesses right across our state. On Cross River Rail alone, more than 800 suppliers and subcontractors have secured work including Heinrich Constructions at Yatala with \$30 million for fibre reinforcing plastic, Greenstock Nurseries at Elimbah with more than a million dollars, John R Keith Contracting at Upper Coomera with \$465,000 worth of drainage and hydraulic works and there are many more who will continue to benefit as we inject more than \$4 million every day into the South-East Queensland economy. Only the Palaszczuk Labor government has a multimillion dollar plan to create jobs, support business and make Queensland the place to be as we recover from COVID-19, building the infrastructure a booming Queensland population needs.