




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

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ADJOURNMENT

Cross River Rail

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (6.21 pm): I rise to say a few words about the benefits and transformational nature of the Cross River Rail project. This is a project that has been bouncing around for over a decade. It has a well-known history. It is this government that it is 100 per cent funding it and overcoming the blockages that have been occurring.

It will have a long-term legacy not just for this city but for this region. It sets up our public transport system medium to long term by doubling the inner-city rail capacity. We are seeing a lot of people shift onto rail. They will be able to get to where they want to go on Brisbane and South-East Queensland's first genuine underground rail line, including to a station in the heart of the city in Albert Street. This is a fantastic project and one I have been very aware of since working on some of the communications with the current Premier when she was the minister for transport. I am very proud to be the minister responsible for it now.

To be quite frank, it is disappointing to hear some of the ill-founded criticisms—and not necessarily from whom it is predicted that would come; my comments are well known in terms of the opposition in this regard—and comments from the Greens party councillor and figures that go against their own stated values. This is very disappointing. The Greens party local councillor recently said that there will be no long-term legacy for the Olympics in relation to the Cross River Rail project. I need to correct the record.

When we held the Commonwealth Games in Queensland there was a long-term legacy despite the view being put forward by the Greens party. We saw the duplication of the Helensvale to Coomera section of the rail line allowing us to get eight trains an hour into the games. It allowed us to do Light Rail stage 2 on the Gold Coast. The Greens party might not go to the Gold Coast too often, but the public transport system there is very strong and very good because of the legacy of the games. The boom for this state for 10 years, not just around jobs but around transport infrastructure and better urban design, is a key benefit of us landing the Olympics, and let us hope we do.

The Greens party's opposition to change and progressive projects like this is obvious. What we will see is the opening up of a community heart for the first time in Woolloongabba—the Gabba precinct. Some 50 per cent of it will be open space. This is land that has never been open to the public before, yet the Greens criticise this. We see their negativity. They are supposed to support the integration of land use with transport planning, but when we actually do it they seem to oppose it and find every reason to criticise it. We see the hypocrisy of the Greens party when it comes to the reality of standing up for their own stated values. Do not listen to what the Greens party say, but watch what they do because what they say contradicts what they do. I needed to get that on the record.