




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) (9.59 am): Our strong health response is making Queensland the place to be. Our population is booming, with two-thirds of the rapid growth predicted to come to South-East Queensland. With the disaster that is the New South Wales COVID response, plus the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games on the horizon, we will be seeing even more people come to the Sunshine State.

With enormous population growth comes pressure on Queensland's transport system. That is why the Palaszczuk Labor government is making a record investment in major road and transport infrastructure including the Cross River Rail project. This project will transform public transport while backing jobs and our economy.

By the end of this year, more than 3,000 people will have worked on this project, which is on time and on budget. I joined 50 of these workers at a morning safety briefing just over a week ago. Over a hearty barbecue breakfast, Big Jerry and Jayson talked the crews through the focus of the day and what they needed to be aware of. Workers were engaged, asking questions, and were ready to hit the underground running. After this briefing I toured more than seven kilometres of tunnelling completed since January.

Going north to Roma Street via Albert Street and then south to Woolloongabba, experienced tunnel manager Tai showed me what crews had achieved in such a short space of time. I can report that the impressive roadheader machines are close to breaking through at the future Boggo Road station. Even in a site buggy it is amazing how quick it is to go from Woolloongabba to Roma Street underground. It is just over 2.5 kilometres of twin tunnels between two of our likely key Olympic venues in 2032. This halves the current rail journey through South Bank and the Merivale Bridge, which is more than five kilometres in length.

Cross River Rail will mean a quicker commute time into the heart of the city for our workers travelling to the new Albert Street station, which is under construction now. Workers like those I met also benefit from the contracts with 800 Queensland suppliers and subcontractors that have supported this project. Cross River Rail is injecting \$4 million into our economy every single day. What we know for certain is that Queensland is growing rapidly, with 88 per cent of net migration coming here in the next few years because of our strong health response. A growing state needs a growing transport system. That is what the Palaszczuk Labor government is delivering. Cross River Rail will transform public transport in South-East Queensland and cement Brisbane where it rightly belongs—as one of the world's great cities. It will be awesome.