




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 1 December 2021

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Road and Transport Infrastructure

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.00 am): Across the state we are reaching milestone after milestone on major projects delivered as part of our sixth record \$27.5 billion road and transport plan and stimulus projects as part of our COVID economic recovery plan. Due to our effective COVID response, major projects like the Smithfield bypass and Cross River Rail are helping relieve pressure on our roads and transport systems.

Just last Thursday we saw tunnel-boring machine Else break through at the northern portal on the exhibition line. The Deputy Premier and the member for Kurwongbah were on the ground alongside more than 100 Cross River Rail workers as Else came crashing through, marking the end of her 3.8 kilometre tunnelling journey from Woolloongabba outside the cricket ground, below the Brisbane River and the CBD. I see that even the member for Toowoomba North is promoting the Cross River Rail project on his Facebook page this morning. It is great to see Toowoomba locals working on the project as acknowledged on his page, and I do look forward to more regional opposition MPs promoting Cross River Rail. We now have one complete 5.9 kilometre rail tunnel stretching under the river from Boggo Road through to Spring Hill.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr BAILEY: The chamber is excited, Mr Speaker. I know it is a very exciting project. Tunnel-boring machine Merle is not far behind and is expected to break through this month, marking the end of a year of tunnelling for Cross River Rail. The twin tunnels will be lined by 27,000 individual concrete segments made at Wagners by local workers in Wacol. Wagners have made each and every one of the 4.2-tonne segments right here in Queensland, bolstering local jobs and supporting Queensland businesses.

The focus now shifts to building our new underground stations at Boggo Road, the Gabba, Albert Street and Roma Street and upgrading key stations along the line. The station upgrades will ensure some of the older stations on our rail network are accessible for all before trains are running in the tunnels in 2025. Cross River Rail will completely transform travel in South-East Queensland and its twin tunnels will also unlock the Merivale Bridge bottleneck. Cross River Rail will also mean a quicker commute into the heart of the city for our workers, ensuring the success of projects like Gold Coast to Logan Faster Rail and the Sunshine Coast rail duplication.

As the key to securing our 2032 Olympics and Paralympic Games, Cross River Rail will help cement Brisbane as one of Australia's most recognised cities worldwide. Thanks to our world-leading COVID response, Queensland is a growing state that needs a growing transport system, and that is exactly what the Palaszczuk Labor government is delivering. It's awesome!