




Speech By
Steve Minnikin

MEMBER FOR CHATSWORTH

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Cross River Rail

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (2.53 pm): So it begins. Here we go with that gradual watering down of the expectations of the Cross River Rail project. I stand to be corrected, but I believe that the member for Miller was a former arts and drama teacher. I hope he was a better arts and drama teacher than he was a history teacher, if he ever was, because he has a great tendency to try to rewrite history. Only 24 hours ago he said in this chamber, along with the Premier, that the Cross River Rail project will be now opening in 2025. We on this side of the chamber have always supported Cross River Rail—

A government member: Rubbish!

Mr MINNIKIN:—but it is time—

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order, members!

Mr MINNIKIN: I would like to call out the member for Aspley, because I think that little outburst is probably the most erudite contribution he has made to this chamber. It was a moment for the highlight reel, member for Aspley.

Let us have a look at a few facts rather than some revised history. On 26 April 2020 the *Brisbane Times* carried an article with the headline 'What is Cross River Rail? When will it be finished and why do we need it?'. I table the article.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Brisbane Times*, dated 26 April 2020, titled 'What is Cross River Rail? When will it be finished and why do we need it?' [556](#).

It stated—

Cross River Rail will be finished in 2024.

Bing-bong! No, it is 2025 now, according to the member for Miller. For the benefit of the member of Aspley and some of the other backbench members opposite, what have we always said—not what would they like us to say but what have we actually said? The same *Brisbane Times* article of 26 April 2020 states—

LNP will not scrap the project.

Why am I raising this?

Government members interjected.

Mr MINNIKIN: Here we go, on cue! It is about time! To compare what was promised in the past with what it has been watered down to now, let's have a look at a couple of other things. I have here the official media release of 16 April 2018 titled 'Cross River Rail funds welcomed'. I table the media release.

Tabled paper: Media release, dated 16 April 2018, by the former Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Ms Jackie Trad, titled 'Cross River Rail funds welcomed' [557](#).

It was stated that Cross River Rail would open in 2024 and there would be trains running on the different sectors at different frequencies. The trouble is that we have what was warranted by this very incompetent member for Miller, who was described as 'foolish' by the CCC. What a great epitaph! What a great moniker! What a great history lesson! The media release states, 'Cross River Rail will deliver'. I table another document.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Rail services delivered by Cross River Rail—then and now' [558](#).

This document has a column showing what it now 'could' deliver. They have effectively halved the expectations of what this project will deliver. It is disgraceful.