



Speech By  
**Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk**


**MEMBER FOR INALA**

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Record of Proceedings, 22 February 2022

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Rail Infrastructure**

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.44 am): Investing in public transport is a hallmark of good Labor governments. Today I can announce we will invest \$1.12 billion to deliver faster rail services between Brisbane, Logan and the Gold Coast. Through this great project we will remove five level crossings, upgrade nine stations, lay more tracks—effectively doubling the track between Kuraby and Beenleigh—and increase the frequency of services throughout SEQ, complementing the great work we are doing on Cross River Rail, Queensland’s largest ever infrastructure project.

This means more express services will run more often between Brisbane, Logan and the Gold Coast. We believe this project will ease congestion and could shave up to four minutes off the average train trip between Brisbane and the Gold Coast. It was great to hear Robert Dow on ABC Radio this morning describe today’s announcement as a very timely and worthwhile project.

Getting Queenslanders home quicker is important, but this project is also about planning for the future. This is our first investment in transport infrastructure in preparation for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Preparing for an Olympic games is a marathon, not a sprint. It is important that we get out of the blocks strongly; faster rail will help us do that.

More people than ever before are realising what we have known for a long time: that Queensland is the place to be. In the 12 months to June 2021 more than 30,000 people moved to Queensland from the southern states—you cannot blame them, can you—the vast majority of these people settling in the south-east, but a lot of people are going into regional parts of our state as well. We expect this to continue, with an extra 1.2 million people living in the region by 2036. Faster rail will create around 900 jobs and will ensure Queensland remains on track to deliver the best Olympic Games of all time. We are committed to delivering faster rail for the people of Queensland.

I want the Prime Minister on board as well. I have always said we work best when we work together. That is why today I am also calling on the federal government to match our \$1.12 billion commitment for faster rail services. Thanks to our strong health response, our economic recovery is going full steam ahead. Since the beginning of this pandemic we have created 124,300 jobs, the strongest jobs growth in the nation, and our overseas exports have rebounded by 26.3 per cent, totalling \$79.2 billion in 2021. On this side of the House we understand that to keep pace with strong population growth we must invest now. Our government will always invest in new infrastructure to create jobs and get people home faster. I will always fight for Queensland’s fair share.