




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Cross River Rail

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.37 am): A great example of what we are doing in Queensland to provide skills and training on government projects is Cross River Rail. This is Queensland's largest infrastructure project being built for Queenslanders by Queenslanders—2,700 at the moment—and young Queenslanders. So far 342 apprentice and trainee opportunities have been generated by the project. Our target is 450. The project alone has more than 1.3 million training hours clocked up already. That is because we have required each contractor to develop and implement plans that involve training and upskilling the local workforce, including people like Brock, a first year apprentice carpenter who has been developing skills, demolishing concrete and building wooden structures. Bayley, an apprentice with a background in construction, is expanding his knowledge base through undertaking a certificate III with BE Steel Fixing.

Today I can advise the House that Queensland Rail is now hiring 86 new graduates, apprentices and trainees in the next 12 months as part of Queensland's rail revolution. In one of the largest graduate intakes in Queensland Rail's history, 31 engineering, IT and business graduates will join the team. Better yet, as many as 55 apprentice and traineeship opportunities will be offered across a number of trades to build a new generation of railway workers. That is a total of 86 new apprentices and graduates across the whole of Queensland to boost the technical and trade workforce as we deliver major rail projects from the Gold Coast right through to Mount Isa.