



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Bailey**


**MEMBER FOR MILLER**

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Record of Proceedings, 11 May 2022

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Cross River Rail**

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.02 am): The Palaszczuk Labor government is transforming the future of travel right below our feet. We continue to make progress on Queensland's biggest ever infrastructure project each and every day: Cross River Rail. Thanks to Cross River Rail we will see trains running below the Brisbane River for the first time in history. It will be awesome!

After finishing tunnelling ahead of schedule last year, our focus is now on building stations and tunnel works. Already we have seen the first lengths of track being delivered at the new underground station at the Gabba, which we know will be a key transport hub for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. This rail was manufactured in Australia by Australian workers, showing that our investment in Queensland's transport infrastructure has far-reaching economic and employment benefits. Soon this track will be laid down in the tunnels to connect the four new underground stations with the existing rail network at Roma Street and Park Road stations.

One of these new stations is Albert Street station, the first new station to be built in Brisbane's CBD in over 120 years. It is at Albert Street where we hit another major milestone last night with the Deputy Premier going down to commemorate the event deep underground. We have excavated 50 metres deep right in the middle of the CBD where the future Albert Street station will sit, a record excavation in the history of Brisbane. That is the equivalent of a 13-storey building below ground level and can only be accessed by 40 flights of stairs each way—and I can assure members that it is a good workout. This depth almost doubles the 26-metre record set by the Queen's Wharf project which is also going very well.

The northern portal, north of Roma Street on the Ekka line, is where the final parts of the tunnel boring machines Else and Merle—much loved—were recently removed, marking the end of the tunnelling of the project. This is also where we will soon host a money-can't-buy experience for 40 lucky ABC 612 listeners to go down there. It will be the only opportunity the public gets to head into the tunnels below the city before they are fitted out with track and signalling infrastructure.

The Cross River Rail project is full of opportunity for a better transport network and for a growing South-East Queensland population. Construction will be complete in 2024 and trains running in 2025. We are five years in and only 3½ years to go.