




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 21 June 2022

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Budget, Railways; Cunningham Highway, Roadworker Death

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.51 am): In today's budget, the Palaszczuk Labor government is making a record investment in Queensland's rail network. More than \$3.5 billion is locked in over the next four years for new rail projects which will transform transport in Queensland.

On Sunday, I joined the Treasurer at Cross River Rail's Woolloongabba station, where the Palaszczuk Labor government's rail revolution is already well underway—30 metres below ground level. I am pleased to report to the House that the first train tracks have now been laid in Cross River Rail's twin tunnels, and they look awesome. In fact, they are running almost below this House—from the future underground Albert Street station under the Botanic Gardens and south towards the future Woolloongabba station. Over the coming months workers will be laying up to 100 metres of track per day. This is another milestone as we build the first underground passenger rail line in Queensland's history.

Our commitment to rail does not terminate there. We are not just building 100 per cent state government funded Cross River Rail—after the lack of cooperation from the previous federal government—we are transforming the entire rail network. Through more than \$3.5 billion in rail investment in today's budget, we are creating more than 5,000 jobs, and delivering major South-East Queensland rail infrastructure projects, which will help Queenslanders get home to their families sooner.

This investment timetable includes: \$924 million towards the \$1.2 billion Gold Coast Light Rail stage 3 from Broadbeach to Burleigh Heads—I can see the smile on the face of the member for Mermaid Beach; \$875 million towards the \$2.6 billion Kuraby to Beenleigh track duplication, which includes removing five level crossings and station accessibility upgrades; \$488 million towards the \$550 million Beerburrum to Nambour Rail Upgrade—a project I know the members for Caloundra and Nicklin are huge supporters of, and aren't they doing a fantastic job?; \$912 million towards the New Generation Rollingstock program; \$212 million towards the Queensland Train Manufacturing Program which is part of our \$7.1 billion plan to build 65 new trains here in Maryborough, driven by the member for Maryborough and assistant minister and supported strongly by the member for Hervey Bay; \$107 million towards the construction of three new Gold Coast train stations at Pimpama, Hope Island and Merrimac—we will not ignore the Gold Coast like those opposite as we invest in better rail; and \$120 million towards the Loganlea train station relocation and park-and-ride upgrade—a project the Attorney-General and member for Waterford has championed.

Queensland is a boom state with a booming population due to our leadership during the COVID pandemic. That means we need an expanded rail network. That is exactly what the Palaszczuk Labor government is delivering in this budget. When it comes to rail, the Palaszczuk Labor government delivers for Queensland through a record investment in today's budget—not cuts.

Before I finish, I have some sad news to report to the House. Yesterday a RoadTek worker tragically lost his life on a job site on the Cunningham Highway. The incident is under investigation. The gentleman has been working for RoadTek for five years. I am sure all members support me in sending our sincerest condolences to his family, friends and all his work mates at the RoadTek depot in Nathan.