



Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Cross River Rail

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.56 am): The earth beneath our feet has been shifted and removed. Right now less than two kilometres from here the Cross River Rail's future underground Woolloongabba station is taking shape. When footy fans are heading to the Gabba on Friday to see the Lions take out the Demons they will be able to see the future emerging. They will see part of the Gabba station now rising out of the site, paving the way for easy arrival and departure from the Gabba via heavy rail for cricket, the footy and also concerts. However, it is what is happening underground that is even more exciting.

I can report that the massive concrete segments forming the future Gabba station's mezzanine level have been put in place as we speak. Fifty workers like engineers David Leitner, Aisling McKenna and Jade Furness are using a world-first construction method to do so. Lifting beams with a mobile gantry from inside a cavern this way is a world first.

The Gabba station will play a key role in our future SEQ train network, a plan we put out earlier this month. The SEQ Rail Connect lays the platform for the future of rail with a whole new rail line being added by the Palaszczuk Labor government. We will have direct links from the south to the north and from the east to the west and we will see commuters getting out in the heart of Brisbane's CBD. Rail advocate Robert Dow described the plan as 'like raining gold'.

Cross River Rail is delivering 15 fully accessible new or upgraded train stations. Today I am pleased to announce the next station to be upgraded with a full accessibility upgrade will be Rocklea, which I know the member for Toohey is very excited to hear. Rocklea will close from mid-September until late next year as it undergoes that major accessibility upgrade. Yeronga station is open and close to full completion and the Fairfield station accessibility upgrade is progressing well.

With four new underground stations, a full-time upgraded Ekka station, upgraded suburban stations, 5.9 kilometres of fast twin rail tunnels, more trains and better services, it is clear that the Cross River Rail project and line is a transformational project. Do not take my word for it. I was very heartened to hear an endorsement of the project on 2 August after the transport estimates hearing. It was on ABC Radio and I quote, 'There is no disagreement that the project will be a transformational infrastructure project.' Who was it who said that? It was the member for Chatsworth. After bagging it for four hours, he endorsed it. I am pleased to report to the chamber that the project is now so far advanced that even the LNP cannot cut it a third time. What an awesome project.