



Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 14 June 2023

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Budget, Rail Manufacturing Industry

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services) (10.11 am): In a tight construction market, this year's budget focuses on the delivery of our road, rail, port and active transport commitments across the state. I am pleased to inform the House that the Palaszczuk government's budget confirms funding to build trains in Maryborough by Queensland manufacturing workers and to make our network more accessible.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BAILEY: One would have thought they would be bipartisan, but it never is. The budget includes a \$4.8 billion allocation in the forward estimates towards the capital costs of the Queensland Train Manufacturing Program. That program will see 65 new passenger trains built at a new purpose-built train manufacturing facility at Torbanlea in Maryborough, supporting 800 long-term jobs. As the member for Maryborough will tell you, the Palaszczuk government wants to see the Maryborough region be the strong beating heart of a vibrant rail manufacturing sector in Queensland.

The Queensland Train Manufacturing Program will also see the revitalised Rockhampton railyards play a key role in the rail manufacturing supply chain. I was pleased to join the member for Rockhampton and the member for Keppel earlier this month at the Rocky railyards to announce the first tenants into that facility: a fibreglass manufacturer and a hydrogen rail research collaboration between Queensland Rail and Central Queensland University. The Queensland Train Manufacturing Program will see new stabling and maintenance facilities built at Ormeau, establishing good, ongoing jobs in the rail sector on the northern Gold Coast to maintain our new rail fleet.

In addition to delivering manufacturing jobs in Maryborough instead of importing them overseas, we have learned from the mistakes the previous LNP government made when they ordered New Generation Rollingstock made overseas. Those trains were not compliant with disability standards, and we are retrofitting. I can report that funding continues for that program. We have now passed the halfway mark in retrofitting these carriages to be disability compliant, including: a second accessible toilet on every NGR train; more grab-hand handrails; improving and adding Braille and tactile text to signage; an increase of 10 per cent to space inside toilet cubicles for easier movement; an increase in priority seating for those who need it from 24 to 88 per train; and improving wheelchair allocated spaces. Of the 75 NGR trains being retrofitted to comply with disability standards, I am pleased to report that 41 are now compliant and running passenger services across South-East Queensland. A further eight are at the Maryborough workshop being fixed by manufacturing workers in Queensland.

Other accessibility measures in yesterday's budget include an allocation of funds towards five new stations for Queensland Rail's Accessibility Upgrade Program. Banyo, Bundamba, Burpengary, Lindum and Morningside stations will be transformed with an additional \$300 million to the existing \$500 million program. The budget allocates \$500 million towards three new accessible stations on the Gold Coast at Hope Island, Pimpama and Merrimac.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my left will cease their interjections. The minister is delivering a statement which appears to be very factual. I will hear the statement. Members in the House will hear the statement.

Mr BAILEY: These eight stations, in addition to the 12 either new or upgraded stations being delivered by the Cross River Rail Development Authority and part of Logan and Gold Coast Faster Rail, mean that across the network around 30 stations will be brought up to modern accessibility standards for people in wheelchairs, people with disabilities and parents with prams. We are not just building Cross River Rail; we are continuing our rail revolution.