




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 11 October 2023

MOTION

Cost of Living

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services) (5.06 pm): I move the following amendment—

That all words after 'House' be omitted and the following inserted:

1. acknowledges national cost-of-living pressures experienced by Queensland families and the targeted cost-of-living support provided by the Palaszczuk government;
2. notes public transport patronage is growing consistently post pandemic;
3. notes the Palaszczuk government has:
 - (a) taken strong action to make public transport more affordable on many occasions since 2016;
 - (b) implemented the Fairer Fares package saving commuters \$325 million;
 - (c) limited many public transport fare increases to well below the CPI;
 - (d) continued the rolling program of train station accessibility upgrades;
 - (e) delivered thousands of park-and-ride spaces making accessing our public transport network easier in outer suburbs and locations;
 - (f) brought rail manufacturing back to Queensland, building the most accessible fleet of trains in our state's history, in the Maryborough region;
 - (g) made 50 NGR trains disability compliant;
4. notes the Palaszczuk government is continuing to deliver record levels of transport investment, building a better and more accessible network including:
 - (a) duplicated the Gold Coast line between Coomera and Helensvale;
 - (b) Gold Coast Light Rail stages 2 and 3;
 - (c) Cross River Rail;
 - (d) on-demand transport;
 - (e) Logan and Gold Coast faster rail;
 - (f) Sunshine Coast rail duplication;
 - (g) South East Busway extension;
 - (h) new bus routes, including in Townsville and on the Gold and Sunshine coasts;
 - (i) bus priority on the eastern corridor;
 - (j) Northern Transitway;
5. acknowledges the rollout of the nation-leading Smart Ticketing across Queensland delivering the biggest single integrated ticketing system in the world.'

The Palaszczuk government is building a public transport legacy on a scale this state has never seen. Whether it is bus or train, this investment into public transport will deliver better services, create thousands of good jobs and result in a balanced transport network. Honourable members need only to

look at that list to see—and I know that I have only two minutes and 30 seconds to speak—that this motion from the Greens party denies the reality that it is this government that is 100 per cent funding Cross River Rail, a whole new line. The motion implies that we are not building a new rail line when we actually are. We are doing a double-track duplication in Logan and Gold Coast Faster Rail between Kuraby and Beenleigh to allow faster, more competitive express trains to one of the great growth areas in South-East Queensland. The Sunshine Coast duplication is well and truly underway and we are doing the hard yards on the Sunshine Coast direct line, in partnership with the Albanese federal government. Previously we have not had a partner to do that. Now that we do, we are not missing that opportunity. We are connecting light rail through Helensvale to stage 1, which is integrated with the heavy rail line, and we are doing stage 3 from Broadbeach to Burleigh.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BAILEY: The LNP interject, but they do nothing on public transport every time they are in power. They do absolutely nothing, other than order trains that are made overseas and are not disability compliant and gut cities like Maryborough. We are still fixing the LNP order trains to this day.

Our government is also doing a lot of station upgrades. There is a long list of those, including in the electorates of Greens' party MPs. Auchenflower station is fully upgraded and accessible. We are doing new platforms at Boggo Road and we are rebuilding an entirely new station at Dutton Park, on the edge of my electorate and the South Brisbane electorate. We are doing a lot in terms of station accessibility upgrades. No state or jurisdiction is going to meet the 2032 goal—that is a simple fact. We are seeing that now more than 80 per cent of commuters have an accessible station. We are adding to that number through Cross River Rail and through our Queensland Rail program.

What we are looking at here is patronage returning. We already passed 100 per cent for light rail compared to pre-pandemic levels. As you would expect, we are seeing consistent improvements across our networks as people migrate back to public transport. I am very proud of our public transport record; it is phenomenal. The Greens party should acknowledge and endorse it rather than criticise it, because their economic policies are simply to make everything free, which makes no sense whatsoever.