




Speech By
Hon. Bart Mellish

MEMBER FOR ASPLEY

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Public Transport

 **Hon. BJ MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services) (10.09 am): We want to make sure that Queenslanders can get to where they need to go quickly and, importantly, safely. That is why the Miles government invests significantly in public transport. Everyone needs to access appointments, do their work commute and visit family and friends safely. That is why, in particular, we are upgrading train stations and why we make safety on our rail lines a priority.

Queensland Rail has worked with the Queensland Police Service on over 700 joint operations to ensure the safety and security of passengers on our rail network. The safety and security of our customers and employees is always our priority. Queensland Rail's partnership with the police, through the 90-strong QPS Railway Squad, authorised officers, security guards and our mobile security dog teams, continues to deliver safe and secure rail travel.

The Railway Squad is a highly visible uniformed presence on the rail network to deter, detect, investigate and charge offenders for criminal and antisocial behaviour. They undertake regular patrols based on intelligence and coordinate their responses out of eight purpose-built, strategically located outposts on the rail network. In addition, two police hubs have been built at Kippa-Ring and Helensvale railway stations for both the Railway Squad and local police. Those operations are supported by QR's 24-hour security monitoring crew, which feeds police intelligence and information via more than 12,000 CCTV cameras on the rail network. As a result of those initiatives, serious crime on the network remains low with just over three recorded customer assaults per one million passenger journeys.

To complement this highly visible and effective presence at our rail stations, we are also rolling out upgrades right across the network to make our stations safer, more accessible and easier to navigate. Since 2015, the government has committed more than \$700 million to upgrade stations to improve accessibility across the South-East Queensland network. Under our Station Accessibility Upgrade Program, 12 stations—Alderley, Newmarket, Graceville, Nambour, Dinmore, Morayfield, Boondall, Strathpine, East Ipswich, Dakabin, Cannon Hill and Auchenflower—have been completed, as well as platform 1 at South Bank station. We are undertaking upgrades at Banyo, Buranda, Bundamba, Burpengary, Lindum and Morningside at the moment. While the project scope varies for each station, the upgrades generally include the addition of lift-accessible footbridges and full-length raised platforms. Other safety upgrades include accessible pathways and toilets, improved facilities for hearing and vision-impaired passengers, lighting and, importantly, CCTV upgrades, wayfinding signage and new bicycle enclosures to encourage active and safe transport. I am proud to be part of a government that prioritises safety and invests in public transport for all Queenslanders.