




Speech By
Peter Russo
MEMBER FOR TOOHEY

Record of Proceedings, 1 May 2024

ADJOURNMENT

Rocklea Railway Station

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (7.30 pm): Cross River Rail is a bold and ambitious project envisaged by my government. The development will articulate a 40-year blueprint which will generate wider economic benefits for South-East Queensland through the delivery of new rail connections. The innovative and economic development corridor will incorporate a series of major clusters of economic activity and opportunities centred around Cross River Rail stations and linking to major facilities such as hospitals and universities. The project includes the delivery of extensive rebuild works for seven suburban stations between Dutton Park and Salisbury, with three of these stations—Salisbury, Moorooka and Rocklea—in my electorate. These rebuilds will significantly upgrade passenger safety and accessibility with new overpasses, lifts, kiss-and-ride infrastructure and bike facilities at each of the new stations.

Tonight I want to speak about the Rocklea station and the weatherboard outbound waiting shelter's historic connections as have been identified under heritage impact assessments undertaken by Cross River Rail. As part of the heritage assessment it was determined that, unfortunately, the timber footbridge from Rocklea station was unable to be incorporated into the new works. Nevertheless, the footbridge has been photographed and documented as an archival recording. The final design for the new station incorporated reflective elements of the earlier historic installation.

Rocklea station has served the local community's transport needs since it opened in 1885, which is almost 140 years ago. The history buffs from the Railway Preservation Society of Queensland have accessed State Archives in their quest for verification of its history. They located the original drawings from 1884-85 for the Rocklea station which were reflective of the character, size and construction of the shelter. The original shelter was a timber weatherboard, skillion-roof open shelter with an attached store. The design included ladder frame brackets and struts, with the building sitting on timber stumps.

The original shelter was carefully dismantled by the rebuild team. The Construction Training Centre facility at Salisbury provided the space where a cohort of young professionals working with Constructionarium Australia rebuilt the shelter so it could be reinstated at the Rocklea station. The rebuild of the shelter was recently completed and I was thrilled to attend the official opening of the shelter, where I had the opportunity to speak with the team that made the magic happen.