



Speech By
Hon. Brent Mickelberg

MEMBER FOR BUDERIM

Record of Proceedings, 14 October 2025

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Gold Coast, Transport Infrastructure; Road Rules

 **Hon. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.10 am): The Crisafulli government is delivering the infrastructure needed for the Gold Coast. This includes a range of rail improvements. I am pleased to share that the new Pimpama station will open on Monday, 20 October 2025, allowing locals to catch a train closer to home from that date.

Pimpama station will be a modern and accessible station with accessible parking, lifts and priority seating on platforms. This is the first new additional train station to join the South-East Queensland rail network in nearly a decade. It is one of three new stations for the Gold Coast, along with Hope Island and Merrimac, and it will help connect South-East Queensland's growing population and one of the fastest growing regions in the country. Residents can catch buses to the station, with local bus routes realigned to service the station and new stops located directly outside the station entrance. The Crisafulli government is delivering infrastructure like this to help Queenslanders get home sooner, and is part of a broader package of major rail projects that include Logan and Gold Coast Faster Rail—something that those opposite failed to deliver—and The Wave on the Sunshine Coast.

Gold Coasters have been waiting a long time to see the completion of key stages of the Coomera Connector, the first of which is the northern package. One of the standout features of this package is the nearly one-kilometre-long bridge over the Coomera River. This bridge will be a key part of improving connectivity and easing congestion for Gold Coast commuters.

As part of our rigorous pre-opening inspections, some cracking was identified in the concrete headstocks of the bridge piers. It is important to note that cracking in new concrete is not unusual. In fact, some degree of cracking is permitted under the Department of Transport and Main Roads' bridge standards. However, in this instance, the cracking was more than we would have anticipated and that is why we have initiated additional investigations to ensure the structure meets the highest safety and durability standards prior to the opening of the road. Once these investigations are complete, our government intends to open the Coomera Connector northern section, which represents a major milestone on this project.

Lastly, I have a timely reminder that not everything you read on the internet is true. Reports on social media about new road rules relating to eating, drinking non-alcoholic beverages and smoking while driving are fake. These actions are permitted in Queensland provided the driver is careful and maintains attention and proper control of their vehicle. Careless driving can land the driver with an on-the-spot fine of \$667 and three demerit points. While eating, drinking non-alcoholic beverages and smoking while driving are not illegal, it is recommended that drivers minimise any potential distractions and stay focused on the driving task. It is important to note, however, that it is illegal to smoke in a vehicle where there are children under the age of 16 present.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr MICKELBERG: I note that those opposite are interjecting. Perhaps they have been following the fake news on the Leader of the Opposition's social media accounts of recent weeks.