

Question on Notice

No. 1552

Asked on 10 November 2004

MR FINN asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (MR LUCAS)—

QUESTION:

Will he outline the benefits of the Salisbury to Kuraby rail line triplification for rail travel between Brisbane and the Gold Coast?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for his question.

In 2003 the Premier announced a \$400 million capital funding allocation for the Citytrain network (MetTRIP Stage 1). Approximately \$184 million is allocated for track infrastructure upgrades on the Beenleigh/Gold Coast corridor to provide additional capacity for Gold Coast services.

The track upgrades include construction of a third track between Salisbury to Kuraby stations and duplication of the existing single track between Ormeau to Coomera stations. These upgrades are being built to cater for future demand for rail services between Brisbane and the Gold Coast.

This supports the State Government's 'Draft South East Queensland Regional Plan', which identifies upgrades to the existing Brisbane to Gold Coast rail line to increase capacity and improve services on this growing corridor. The Brisbane – Gold Coast region is one of the fastest growing population corridors in Australia, and track capacity and service upgrades are essential to cater for this ongoing growth. Over 2.8 million passengers used the Gold Coast trains last year, with patronage growing by an average 3.4% or 330,000 passengers since 2001.

The government has also announced the introduction of an extra two peak Brisbane to Robina services when the track upgrades are complete, and some 3-car services will be upgraded to 6-car services providing commuters in the rapidly growing Gold Coast corridor with less crowded and more frequent services. The Salisbury to Kuraby upgrade, together with the Ormeau to Coomera upgrade, is essential to provide additional track capacity for these services catering for ongoing patronage growth.

The good news for local commuters is that six rail stations between Salisbury and Kuraby will be upgraded and modernised. The six stations are Coopers Plains, Banoon, Sunnybank, Altandi, Runcorn and Fruitgrove.

The station upgrades include new railway platforms, new and upgraded shelters, new lifts and footbridges, additional car parking, new passenger set down zones, upgraded station lighting and bicycle lockers.

Preliminary design for the Salisbury to Kuraby upgrade has been completed and public consultation commenced on Monday 15 November. The project team has already met with all directly affected property owners.

The preliminary design of the Salisbury to Kuraby upgrade has involved consultation with state and local government authorities and the commissioning of a detailed Environmental and Planning study to ensure all environmental, social, economic and cultural aspects of the project have been taken into consideration. The study can be found on QR's website at www.citytrain.com.au and at the Coopers Plains and Sunnybank Hills libraries.

In addition I also encourage residents and commuters to visit the displays that are being held at the local rail stations that are being upgraded and talk to the Queensland Rail consultation team members who will answer questions and listen to your feedback.

Queensland Rail is actively seeking local community input into the planning process to ensure all impacts are identified. All comments are welcomed by December 15.

Details of the itinerary for the station display consultation team will be advertised in local papers, and are also available on freecall number 1800 620 815. These details are also available in the project brochure which has been distributed to the community in the vicinity of the upgrade project, or which can be downloaded from QR's internet site.

Work on the Salisbury to Kuraby project will start in 2006. The new rail line and facilities are planned to be in operation by early 2008, with the 2 extra Gold Coast services introduced at this time increasing peak passenger capacity by 900 seats in each peak period.