

Question on Notice

No. 663

Asked on 22 May 2024

MR R STEVENS ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS AND MINISTER FOR DIGITAL SERVICES (HON B MELLISH)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 3 being scheduled to be operational by the end of 2025—

Will the Minister advise if Light Rail 3 is still on budget and on time for completion?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Mermaid Beach for the question.

Queensland is experiencing the fastest population growth in Australia and an unprecedented number of people are now choosing to move to South East Queensland. As with many other infrastructure projects across Australia, cost escalations and supply chain issues have affected many road and rail projects in Queensland.

Stage 3 of the Gold Coast Light Rail, currently in construction from Broadbeach to Burleigh Heads, is a critical public transport connection which directly supports the Gold Coast's expanding population. It is a major undertaking, which is advancing with careful management to remain within the \$1.219 billion budget jointly provided by the federal, state, and local governments.

My commitment to transparency and keeping Queenslanders updated on the cost of major projects twice per year, remains in place.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) is committed to commencing the Stage 3 Testing and Commissioning phase by late 2025. The timeline for the schedule of works is outlined on the project page at <https://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/projects/gold-coast-light-rail>.

The Queensland Government is delivering its ninth record transport and roads infrastructure program in a row, as detailed in the *Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program 2024–25 to 2027–28*, which outlines \$37.4 billion in investment over the next four years and is estimated to support an average of 28,000 direct jobs over the life of the program. Of this, \$5.458 billion is committed across TMR's South Coast Region, estimated to support an average of 3930 direct jobs over the life of the program.