

Question on Notice

No. 520

Asked on Wednesday, 7 August 2013

MR STEVENS asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (MR EMERSON) —

QUESTION:

Will the Minister give an update on the progress of the Light Rail project on the Gold Coast?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Mermaid Beach for the question.

I am advised that the Gold Coast Rapid Transit project is progressing well.

As at August 2013, over 2 million man hours have been spent on the project by GoldLinQ with approximately 800 workers on the project each day.

Over 9 kilometres of dual track has been laid in Southport, Paradise Waters, Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach and 11 stations are under construction. More than 170 overhead line poles have been erected and most strung with wires to power the light rail system.

GoldLinQ has ramped up construction works in Scarborough and Nerang Streets at Southport and along the 2.1km Surfers Paradise Boulevard to complete underground services, pavements, civil works, track laying and station construction.

The Nerang River light rail bridge will be approximately 375 metres long and will span the river by the end of October. Construction of the shared pedestrian and cycle bridge has also started.

The first two 43 metre long, 61 tonne Flexity2 trams are due to arrive at the Port of Brisbane in early September and will be lifted from the hold of a ship and on to Australian soil after the voyage from Germany.

The control room for the light rail system in the Depot building is in the process of final fit out, ready for energisation of overhead lines in the Depot and along Queen and Nerang Streets in Southport in late September. The testing of the important system, lines, trams, drivers and commissioning will start in mid/late September and continue up to light rail passenger services commencing in mid 2014.

I am asking the community to be aware of this new road user. The testing of trams and drivers will significantly change the road and transport landscape and in the months to come the Gold Coast community and visitors to the city will see more areas opening up for tram movements in Paradise Waters, Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach.

Finally, I would like to thank the entire Gold Coast community for their continued support and patience during delivery of this vital public transport project.