

Question on Notice

No. 495

Asked on Thursday, 5 June 2014

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 and the expected public opening date?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Mermaid Beach for the question and can advise that:

- Stage one of the \$1.2 billion light rail project is nearing completion, with construction focussing on footpath reinstatement, landscaping and other finishing works.
- The purpose built pedestrian and cycle bridge over the Nerang River, constructed as part of the light rail project, is open for public use and will become a City of Gold Coast asset.
- On 17 March 2014, the project reached another milestone, with the first tram testing the entire 13 kilometre route from the Gold Coast University Hospital station to Broadbeach South station near Pacific Fair.
- All 50 trainee tram drivers are continuing to undergo final training.
- The light rail depot is operational and all of the 14 G:link trams are now being used for final testing and commissioning.
- All 16 stations are in the final stages of fit out with ticketing equipment, seating, signage and landscaping in place.
- As trams are being tested, incidents and near misses during the testing phase are being monitored so any learnings can be used to strengthen community education messages.
- GoldLinQ started rolling out an extensive community education campaign in September 2013 and distributed more than 350,000 safety brochures, placed newspaper advertisements and made presentations to schools and community groups.
- A safety video is also available on the GoldLinQ website and is being screened in local cinemas.
- Television advertisements and weather segment sponsorship are running on Channel 9 Gold Coast to remind motorists, cyclists and pedestrians to obey signage and signals and be aware of existing road rules to stay safe.
- It is expected the first passengers will get on board the G:link trams once the final testing and commissioning phase has been completed mid-year.
- This first stage will service the new 750 bed Gold Coast University Hospital and the 25,000 plus student population of Griffith University, and provide a reliable public transport service to the fast growing commercial, retail, accommodation and restaurant centres of Southport, Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach.
- Since construction started in January 2012, the GoldLinQ consortium has spent over \$530 million with local businesses for labour and materials.
- In March 2014, project staff achieved three million hours working on stage one of the light rail.