

Question on Notice

No. 744

Asked on Tuesday, 15 September 2015

MR FURNER asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade (HON J TRAD) —

QUESTION:

Will the Minister update the House on the work being done by Transport and Main Roads to prepare the Gold Coast to successfully host the Commonwealth Games in 2018?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Ferny Grove for the question.

The Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games (the Games) will be held from 4 to 15 April 2018. It will be one of the biggest events ever held in Queensland, hosting thousands of athletes and officials, media, workforce and up to 1.5 million ticketed spectators.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) is responsible for planning and delivering public domain transport for the Games and is working in partnership with GOLDOC and the City of Gold Coast Council to ensure a successful transport operation for the event.

The Strategic Planning phase wrapped up earlier this year with Concepts of Operation for transport receiving positive feedback from the Commonwealth Games Federation's Coordination Commission. This government is now progressing its Operational Planning for transport solutions for the Games.

We have now secured an in principle funding commitment of \$95 million from the Australian Government, as well as \$55 million from the Gold Coast City Council to extend the Gold Coast Light Rail network. This means that light rail will now be able to play a more significant role in transporting spectators and workforce to key Games venues.

TMR will now modify our operational transport plans, ensuring we maximise the use of the extended light rail network and its connection to the heavy rail system, in preparation for the Gold Coast to host the Commonwealth Games.

Light rail will help transport spectators and workforce to and from Games activities along the coastal strip, particularly to competition venues in Broadbeach and Southport. The 7.3 kilometre Stage Two extension of the G:Link light rail, connecting the Gold Coast University Hospital light rail station to the heavy rail and bus interchange at Helensvale, will be delivered prior to the Commonwealth Games. Stage Two plays an important role in connecting the Coast, and with all three levels of Government committing to this vital infrastructure, this legacy project can now be delivered for Queensland.

The Queensland Government also recently announced \$160.7 million to deliver road upgrades on the Gold Coast which will support the network performance during the Games. Construction will commence in mid-2015 and will be completed in late 2017. The package of improvements will address several problem areas on the Gold Coast, leaving a lasting legacy of improved infrastructure for residents and visitors as well as supporting Games-time operations.

Travel to the Games events will be predominately by public or active transport, with no provision for private parking at major venues. We are seeking to reduce private vehicle use to ease traffic congestion by encouraging people to choose passenger and active transport.

Bus, heavy rail and light rail services will be strengthened, with higher frequency and shuttle bus services and additional park 'n' ride facilities to support access to and from the Games venues.

Spectators, residents, businesses, visitors and workforce will be provided with the information, tools and easy-to-use resources to understand their travel options and make informed decisions about the easiest way to get around the network and to the Games.

Duplication of the Coomera to Helensvale line will form an important part of the transport plan for the Games, with the Coomera to Helensvale track the only single track section still remaining on the Gold Coast rail line.

The Coomera to Helensvale duplication project will provide additional contra-peak services to meet the heavy passenger demand expected during the Games. By increasing capacity on the network and improving run-times between Coomera and Helensvale, this project will provide a more connected and reliable service, reduce delays and crowding on trains to meet growing passenger demand.

Construction is scheduled to commence in March 2016 with completion forecasted for October 2017.

The Queensland Government and Department of Transport and Main Roads is proud to be a key partner in the delivery of the Games and looks forward to continuing our working partnerships with GOLDOC, the City of Gold Coast Council and the Commonwealth Games Federation and participating in this exciting opportunity to showcase our state on the world stage.