

## Question on Notice

No. 628

Asked on Wednesday, 16 May 2018

**MR D PURDIE** ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON M BAILEY)

### QUESTION:

With reference to the Federal Government's funding commitment for the duplication of the north coast rail line project—

Will the Minister advise (a) if the State Government has committed funds for this project in the upcoming budget and (b) when works are due to commence on this important infrastructure project?

### ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Ninderry for the question.

The Palaszczuk Government is delivering for Sunshine Coast commuters and has committed \$160.8 million in funding for the Beerburrum to Nambour Upgrade as part of this year's Budget. This funding will allow the project to get underway immediately with detailed design to be followed by construction.

The Beerburrum to Nambour Rail Duplication will deliver increased capacity, travel time savings for passenger and freight services, and increased reliability on the North Coast Line. It will reduce the competition between passenger and freight services, and enable vital public transport links to the rapidly growing Sunshine Coast area.

While we welcome the Turnbull Government's recent funding announcement for this project, it's important to note they have not contributed their fair share under the National Land Transport Network Agreement. Despite the fact that the federal LNP Government amended the national land transport network to include the Beerburrum to Nambour rail line, so far they have only offered funding on a 50:50 basis. Ironically, the rail line runs adjacent to the Bruce Highway, which receives 80:20 funding.

I have also approved the gazettal of land requirements, further signalling the Palaszczuk Government's commitment to progressing the project. Declaration of the land requirements, which has already been subject to community consultation, will occur in the coming weeks, giving the local communities from Beerburrum to Nambour more certainty, and opening up the option for impacted properties to apply for early acquisition, subject to meeting early acquisition criteria.

With the current funding on the table for this project totalling more than \$550 million, detailed design work can get underway now, while we continue to negotiate with the Turnbull government to get Queensland's fair share.

It is important to note that this project could never have gotten underway without the Palaszczuk Government completing the business case after years of inaction from the former LNP government.