

Question on Notice

No. 794

Asked on Thursday, 14 June 2018

MR S O'CONNOR ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON M BAILEY)

QUESTION:

Will the Minister outline any costing and planning that has been done for extending light rail to the north on the Gold Coast, specifically the spur line to Harbour Town?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Bonney for the question.

There is no doubt that the Gold Coast Light Rail is one of the greatest Labor public transport legacies here in Queensland, and it was funded and built by Labor governments.

Since light rail was introduced on the Gold Coast in 2014, public transport trips have increased by more than 32 per cent and since Stage 2 opened, light rail patronage has increased by 27 per cent.

As detailed in *Shaping SEQ*, the Queensland Government's regional planning framework to sustainably manage change and growth in South East Queensland, Stage 3 of the light rail (Broadbeach to Coolangatta via the Gold Coast Airport) has been identified as the priority corridor in the next 25 years.

The Palaszczuk Government is leading the development of the Detailed Business Case in partnership with the City of Gold Coast with state and local governments each committing \$5 million. We are committed to conducting community consultation in the second half of 2018. The reference design and station locations will be a critical part of this engagement process.

Any future business case development for Stage 3B would also involve extensive community consultation. We are committed to keeping the community informed and engaged in all light rail planning activities.

We are also investing in significant public transport infrastructure for the northern Gold Coast. The Palaszczuk Government announced three new rail stations for the Gold Coast Line at Pimpama, Helensvale North and Worongary–Merrimac in November last year.

The three new stations will mean more Gold Coast residents can benefit from the 3150 extra peak-hour seats on the Gold Coast line under Cross River Rail, helping to take pressure off the M1 as well. Better public transport is critical for the Gold Coast, with the population expected to grow by an extra 350,000 residents to almost one million people over the next 25 years.

We have allocated \$3 million for planning of these stations which will be progressed in 2018–19, as well as \$120 million over three years for construction. The new stations are expected to be operating in 2023–24, following delivery of Cross River Rail. The exact locations of the three stations will be confirmed during the planning process, which will also consider future land uses.