

Question on Notice

No. 32

Asked on Tuesday 12 February 2019

MR R STEVENS ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON M BAILEY)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the Cross River Rail project and the extension of the heavy rail line from Varsity to Coolangatta both of which received no funding in Federal budgets—

Will the Minister advise why Cross River Rail has received funding in State budgets, while the heavy rail extension on the Gold Coast has not?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Mermaid Beach for the question.

The record of the Palaszczuk Government in investing in infrastructure on the Gold Coast stands in contrast to the Queensland LNP who failed to deliver significant rail infrastructure funding at either the federal or state levels.

Cross River Rail is Queensland's number one infrastructure priority. The project is key to managing South East Queensland's (SEQ) strong population and economic growth and will free up the transport network across SEQ.

The Palaszczuk Government has fully funded Cross River Rail through State Budgets to enable the optimisation of the SEQ rail network and provide the necessary capacity required before an opportunity for future extension of the heavy rail from Varsity Lakes to Tugun is possible.

Expanding and modernising the SEQ rail network (including between Brisbane and the Gold Coast) is critical to increasing transport efficiency, patronage and reliability, as well as realising the economic and population growth potential of the south-east.

The Palaszczuk Government invested in public transport infrastructure on the Gold Coast, including the opening of Gold Coast Light Rail (Stage 2) and commissioning of a business case for Stage 3A to extend the light rail from Broadbeach South to Burleigh Heads.

Further, the Palaszczuk Government recently delivered the \$163 million Coomera to Helensvale rail duplication project, providing improved reliability for Gold Coast customers and the capacity for increased services.

The government has also committed to undertaking planning to deliver three new heavy rail stations at Pimpama, Helensvale North, and Worongary/Merrimac to service the Gold Coast's growing population and further ease pressure on the M1.

Our strong record of rail investment on the Gold Coast, over the last four years, is in stark contrast to that of no investment in rail infrastructure under the Newman LNP Government for which the Member was a senior member as Leader of Government Business.