

Question on Notice

No. 482

Asked on Tuesday 2 April 2019

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

QUESTION:

With reference to Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 3A—

Will the Minister outline (a) how much the total project is estimated to cost and (b) what approaches, if any, have been made formally to the Federal Government for funding of Stage 3A including (i) the amount requested and (ii) how much the State Government will contribute?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Burleigh for the question.

The cost estimate to deliver the Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 3A (GCLR3A) project is \$709 million as detailed in Building Queensland's (BQ) *Infrastructure Pipeline Report December 2018*.

Federal representatives from Infrastructure Australia (IA) and the Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities have been engaged through the development of the detailed business case in an observer role, with representation on project governance committees.

The GCLR3A detailed business case was endorsed by the BQ Board on 20 December 2018. It was issued to IA on 8 February 2019 and added to IA's Infrastructure Priority List on 14 February 2019.

The Australian Government has announced a funding commitment of \$112 million—significantly less than the proportion of funding provided for Stage 1.

The former Federal Labor Government contributed \$365 million towards the \$949 million cost of light rail Stage 1.

Under the Abbott–Turnbull–Morrison LNP Government, federal funding for Stage 2 was cut to \$95 million, or only 23 per cent, with the Palaszczuk Government left to do the heavy lifting with \$270 million (64 per cent) to get this critical infrastructure delivered in time for the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games.

There is no proper policy basis or logic for why the Federal LNP has currently made their lowest ever offer for the next stage to Burleigh. The \$112 million commitment appears to have been randomly chosen and will cover about only 16 per cent of the project's cost. That's a \$157.5 million shortfall compared to the Stage 1 funding formula.

I have publicly called on the Federal Government to provide fair funding for the Gold Coast on a number of occasions.

I encourage the Member to join with the Palaszczuk Government to seek a fairer funding deal for the Gold Coast and his constituents.

A state capital contribution to proceed with GCLR3A's delivery phase is contingent on fair funding commitments from the Australian Government and City of Gold Coast.