

Question on Notice

No. 822

Asked on 16 June 2021

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the proposed Helensvale North Train Station—

Will the Minister listen to residents' concerns and (a) rename the proposed Train Station to Hope Island Road Station and (b) commit to increasing the carparking spaces at this proposed station to at least 500 catering for needs of the area?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Theodore for the question and his interest in the Palaszczuk Government's \$5.4 billion Cross River Rail project.

The project will transform how we travel by rail in the future as well as creating more than 7700 jobs and, as we speak, is pumping more than \$4 million a day into our economy.

The Gold Coast is one of the fastest growing regions in Australia, which is why in 2017 the Palaszczuk Government announced three new stations on the Gold Coast, to be delivered as part of the Cross River Rail project. The new stations are scheduled to be operational in time for the first Cross River Rail services to the Gold Coast.

Whether it is the new heavy rail stations, or Light Rail, or our mammoth road building program, the Palaszczuk Government is delivering major transport improvements on the Gold Coast.

I note the contrasting approach from the LNP which cancelled the Cross River Rail project, and cut \$1.6 billion from roads and transport funding, making the state-wide allocation of funding for competing priorities, including rail upgrades, more challenging. This new station would not be funded to be built if the LNP were elected in 2017, given they were committed to cutting Cross River Rail a second time.

In late 2019, representatives from the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority commenced community consultation on the draft station design concepts for Pimpama, Helensvale North and Merrimac stations. Feedback was received during this process across a broad range of topics, including carparking facilities and renaming the Helensvale North station to Hope Island station.

Further community consultation on the Helensvale North station is expected to occur this year, which will help inform ongoing station design, including the matters the Member has raised.