

Project that will reshape Brisbane

KATE JONES
STATE DEVELOPMENT
MINISTER



EVERY day on my way to work, I pass the ever-growing demolition site at the old Brisbane Transit Centre.

The usually-bustling streets surrounding the remnants of this Brisbane eyesore are deserted and my hometown looks nothing like I can remember, due to COVID-19. But 26 metres below the bare bitumen, there are hundreds of workers transforming our city.

These men and women are turning up each and every day during this pandemic, moulding and shaping the city of our future. While building infrastructure that we need for the future has always been important, large-scale infrastructure projects such as Cross River Rail are now critical to Queensland's economic recovery.

Queensland's largest infrastructure project is generating more than 7500 jobs, certainty for working families and thousands of contracts for local subbies at the very time we need it most couldn't come at a better time.

Our government understands that to get our economy moving again, we need to invest in our construction industry. Right throughout COVID-19, Cross River Rail has injected \$85 million a month into our economy – keeping 1800 workers employed across eight worksites.

Already Cross River Rail is changing the landscape of our city and this week tunneling has begun on Queensland's first underground at Roma Street.

This campaign will share with Queenslanders the opportunities at their fingertips as a result of Queensland's largest infrastructure project.

COVID-19 is the biggest challenge we've ever had to face. But together, I know we can rebuild.

Tereinga Pihere, 16, and Terina Sorensen, 14, at Helensvale train station. Picture: Jerad Williams



MORNING PEAK CHANGES

SUNSHINE COAST Nambour trains every 15 minutes

- 450 extra seats
- Extra capacity on the network to support other rail network growth projects, such as the duplication of the Sunshine Coast line between Beerburrum and Nambour

IPSWICH Trains every five minutes from Ipswich station

- 1800 extra seats
- Trains every 15 minutes from Rosewood station
- 900 extra seats



Extra capacity on the network to support other rail network growth projects, including Flagstone extension

CABOOLTURE Trains every five minutes from Caboolture station

- 1800 extra seats

BAYSIDE Trains every 5.5 minutes from Manly station

- 1800 extra seats

GOLD COAST Trains every five minutes on the Gold Coast line

- 3150 extra seats

BEENLEIGH LINE Trains every six minutes from Loganlea station

- 2700 extra seats
- Trains every 15 minutes from Beenleigh station

INFORMATION: Go to crossriverrail.qld.gov.au and enter your postcode for travel benefits in your area

Time to get city moving

DAN KNOWLES

QUEENSLAND'S biggest infrastructure project will take almost 50,000 people off choked roads and cut morning peak hour train waiting times to five minutes on crucial lines serving the Gold and Sunshine Coasts and Ipswich.

The \$5.4 billion Cross River Rail – an underground link from Dutton Park to Bowen Hills – will end the rail bottleneck choking the south-east's train network by providing a second river crossing.

As well as paving the way for expansion projects, such as the Nambour-to-Beerburrum duplication, it will allow more trains more often.

With the south-east Queensland population forecast to grow from 3.5 million now to 4.9 million in 2036, and rail passenger demand to almost triple in that time, the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority (CRRDA) says its project will help get people from fast-growing outer areas to where they work closer to the city centre.

While more than 80 per cent of population growth will be outside Brisbane, and almost 1.2 million new residents settling in areas such as the Gold and Sunshine coasts, Ipswich, Moreton and Logan, 45 per cent of job growth will be inside the city limits, CRRDA said.

The new tunnel means

Gold Coast, Caboolture and Ipswich commuters will have to wait only five minutes between trains, and those coming from Nambour 15 minutes, with thousands of extra seats being put on as well.

The *Courier-Mail*, in conjunction with the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority, is presenting a series looking at the project and what it will bring to the state.

Construction of the project is pouring \$2.8 million a day into the Queensland economy – jumping to \$4 million a day as it ramps up even further through the second half of the year – and currently employs 1800 people across eight sites.

The 10.2km line will run from Dutton Park to Bowen Hills and include 5.9km of twin tunnels under the river and Brisbane CBD and four new, underground stations at Boggo Road, Woolloongabba, Albert Street and Roma Street, as well as upgrades at other stations.

Matthew Martyn-Jones, CRRDA general manager for strategy, said the project offered a "heart bypass" that would unlock travel and open up massive new development in Brisbane's city centre.

Tereinga Pihere, 16, who was caught up with at Helensvale train station, said she was looking forward to improved services. "We always go to the beach, so we often get transport to get there," she said.

EXCLUSIVE CROSS RIVER RAIL SERIES
Continues all this week in *The Courier-Mail*