MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games

Hon. JA STUCKEY (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games) (9.53 am): An efficient transport system is crucial to Queensland’s prosperity and will be pivotal to the success of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games. Transporting up to 150,000 people per day over the 11 days of the Commonwealth Games on time, in comfort and in an efficient manner is no easy task. But that is the challenge that we will meet to create a stimulating atmosphere and a safe and enjoyable event. It is equally important that we minimise the impact on our local Gold Coast citizens as they go about their daily routines.

As part of this government’s detailed planning process, Goldoc has released a draft transport strategic plan for community consultation. The work we do now will not only ensure a successful transport network for the games but also provide a platform for a lasting and sustainable legacy across the Gold Coast. The draft plan draws on tried and tested transport strategies and considers lessons learned from the recent Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games. Goldoc has put forward a multifaceted proposal that encourages active forms of transport such as walking and cycling. It also focuses on the use of public transport options including free travel on public transport for ticketed spectators within a defined area. Public briefings with key stakeholders are taking place and the community is invited to review the plan and have their say through the Goldoc website.

We are building a strong foundation for the largest sporting event in Australia in over a decade. Some 30,000 new jobs will be created, with an expected $2 billion economic benefit to our great state. Our significant infrastructure investment will create a suite of world-class venues and leave a lasting legacy our city will be proud of. More than a thousand jobs will be created during the design and construction phase of sporting venues alone, with the Commonwealth Games Village generating a further 1,500 jobs.

As I highlighted last sitting, thanks to our forward procurement plan this government has maximised the opportunity for local business to get involved. We do not underestimate the job that lies ahead of us in getting ready for these games. This government has a strong plan for a brighter future and we will deliver the best games ever for the Gold Coast and for all of Queensland.