

Question on Notice

No. 341

Asked on 25 March 2021

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise the annual passenger numbers of the Gold Coast Light Rail (reported separately by financial year) for 2014–15 to 2020–21?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Southport for the question.

Passenger trips on the Gold Coast Light Rail (GCLR) network had grown from 6.3 million in 2014–15 to 10.7 million in 2018–19. During this period, overall passenger trip levels on the Gold Coast have grown by 50.1 per cent, compared to 2013–14 levels.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, patronage in April 2020 was 84.4 per cent below the same period in April 2019. However, it is pleasing to note that patronage is bouncing back, with February 2021 down about 38.4 per cent compared to February 2020 figures.

Patronage is expected to continue to grow with the rollout of vaccines and the normalisation of international tourism and study levels.

Passenger Trips	Gold Cost Light Rail trips
2020–21 (Feb – Financial Year to Date)	3,777,184
2019–20	8,464,439
2018–19	10,743,025
2017–18	9,486,853
2016–17	7,975,234
2015–16	7,676,392
2014–15	6,277,774

The GCLR has been hugely successful and transformative for the Gold Coast. G:link light rail services have had a very high take-up demonstrating its popularity with the local community and visitors to the Gold Coast, giving the government confidence it will continue to be a popular public transport mode.

It is the Palaszczuk Government's approach to increased investment in infrastructure that is needed now more than ever as we aim to recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Member would be aware of the LNP's poor history with light rail on the Gold Coast—for example refusing to progress Stage 2 despite knowing the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games was approaching and, more recently, LNP members holding an array of conflicting positions on heavy and light rail.

The tram network was built in two stages and currently has 19 stations, stretching 20.3 kilometres from Helensvale to Broadbeach South. The GCLR Stage 3 project extends the current system 6.7 kilometres from Broadbeach to Burleigh Heads and has received funding commitments from three levels of government. Major construction is scheduled to commence in 2021, creating up to 760 jobs—many of them local—at a time when maintaining jobs has never been more critical.