1. Cross River Rail and Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 3 are two iconic public transport projects well underway to transform South East Queensland.
2. *Creating Better Connections for Queenslanders*, a 10-year plan for public transport published in 2022, highlighted these projects alongside many other public transport initiatives as critical to achieving the *Queensland Transport Strategy* and building a single integrated transport network accessible to everyone.
3. The Cross River Rail project is in its fourth year of major construction, with significant visible milestones including the completion of tunnelling, track laying, stations advancing, and construction at over 17 sites. The Cross River Rail project continues to support Queensland's economy, with more than 3,000 people currently working on the project and over 1,945 supplier and sub–contractor companies benefitting from the project to date.
4. While heavy rail is considered the backbone of the public transport network and the heavy lifter for moving large numbers of people over longer distances, light rail has a complementary role in fast and frequent local connections.
5. Light rail has been hugely successful and transformative for the Gold Coast. G:link light rail patronage has continued to climb, with more than 72 million (as at June 2023) paid passenger journeys since 2014, demonstrating its popularity with the local community and visitors.
6. The Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 3 project is currently under construction and will extend the existing system 6.7 kilometres from Broadbeach to Burleigh Heads, taking the total alignment to 27 kilometres and 27 stations and an end-to-end journey time of approximately 61 minutes. Early works were completed in 2021 and 2022 involving more than 1000 underground service and environmental investigations. Major construction began in July 2022 and is significantly ramping up month-on-month, progressing towards testing and commissioning in the coming years. The system is expected to be constructed by the end of 2025. To date, 91% of the project workforce reside in the Gold Coast Local Government area, and 90% of total procurement has been sourced from local content suppliers within 125 kilometres.
7. Cabinet noted the significant progress on Cross River Rail and Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 3 projects.
8. *Attachments*:
* Nil.