



Rachel Nolan MP
Minister for Transport

Media release

11 November 2010

Next stop – the Ekka

Queensland history would be at the heart of the South East's public transport future with a proposal to name two Cross River Rail stations the "Ekka" and "The Gabba".

Releasing the reference design for Cross River Rail today, Transport Minister Rachel Nolan said acknowledging the iconic names of the Ekka and the Gabba would bring together the past and the future.

The reference design brings together all details of the project, including the tunnel alignment, station design and construction plans for the first time.

"The Ekka and the Gabba are Australian icons and Cross River Rail will directly link the two," Ms Nolan said.

"These stations will be permanent new additions to our transport network with thousands of people a day using them to go to work, and attend sporting and other events."

Ms Nolan said features of the 18 km Cross River Rail included:

- 9.8km underground tunnel from Yeerongpilly, under the Brisbane River to Bowen Hills
- underground stations at Roma Street, Albert Street, The Gabba and Boggo Road,
- new surface stations at the Ekka and Yeerongpilly, and
- upgrades to Moorooka and Salisbury stations.

The new Ekka Station, proposed to be located at the showgrounds on O'Connell Terrace, would assist with renewal of the entire Bowen Hills Urban Development Area, including the showground precinct and also help to transform the way people travel to RNA events and the nearby Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital.

Member for Brisbane Central Grace Grace said the prospect of a new station would provide even greater incentive for exhibitors to utilise the showgrounds.

"Many people would be familiar with the existing Exhibition Station, which only operates two weeks in August every year – for the Ekka," Ms Grace said.

"The new Ekka Station would be a fully operational, year-round train station, providing direct rail access to the showground precinct, which every year is home to the famous show and numerous international sporting events and music festivals.

"In addition, the new station would be an easy stroll to the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, which is Queensland's biggest hospital and employs more than 7200 staff.

“It would be the last station before the proposed Cross River Rail tunnel, meaning a trip from the Ekka to the CBD would take only about two minutes.”

Ms Nolan said on the southern side of the river, the proposed new underground station would be just a 400m walk away to the Gabba Stadium – easy access for cricket and AFL games.

“In recent years we’ve moved toward a more ‘destination-based’ naming system for our stations, changing Vulture Street to South Bank and Brunswick Street to Fortitude Valley,” Ms Nolan said.

With the reference design now determined, the full scope of the project including infrastructure requirements and property impacts had been identified.

“While an important part of planning for any transport infrastructure project is minimising the impact on property, inevitably there is going to be an impact,” she said.

“Based on the current reference design, there are no further surface residential properties directly impacted over the properties that were identified and announced in September.

“An additional 39 industrial and commercial properties are impacted.

“Of those properties, 26 are in Salisbury/Rocklea, 10 are in the CBD and three are in Bowen Hills.”

Ms Nolan said the community could have their say on the potential benefits and impacts of the reference design and station names by getting involved in the latest round of Cross River Rail community consultation events.

“The Queensland Government is committed to ensuring people’s voices are heard through planning for Cross River Rail,” she said.

“The next round of consultation will run for about four weeks and will be an opportunity for the community to find out more about how planning for the project is progressing and to have their say on the potential benefits and impacts of the reference design.

“This includes providing feedback on construction site locations and the potential benefits and impacts of the project’s construction and operation.

“I strongly urge everyone to get involved in planning this ‘must-do’ project by either attending an event or going online to the Cross River Rail website.”

To be kept up-to-date on the latest Cross River Rail news visit the Cross River Rail website www.crossriverrail.qld.gov.au.

Media contact: Chris Ward 0418 424 654