

## **Milestone for NGR**

The Palaszczuk Government has today confirmed that an agreement has been reached to accept the first of the New Generation Rollingstock (NGR) trains.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Transport Jackie Trad said that she had been working closely with train supplier Qtectic, the Department of Transport and Main Roads and Queensland Rail to resolve issues identified earlier this year.

“When I became Transport Minister in February this year, we identified more than 480 critical issues and all stakeholders have been working around the clock to rectify them,” Ms Trad said.

“Issues with the braking system, drivers cab, sightlines and the heating, ventilation and air-conditioning system have been resolved, with just 22 action items remaining.

“We are confident that all of these action items will be closed-out within the next few weeks and trains will not enter service before this occurs.

“When the LNP were in government they ordered changes to the design of the trains and we have been forced to fix the mess created by the Newman-Nicholls government.

“As part of this process we have completed a comprehensive review of the NGR train’s design and key features, leading to changes that will maximise accessibility for all customers.

“These proposed changes to the overall design will improve the train and make it better.

“Over the past months, we have been engaging with the disability sector to ensure the changes address compliance and functionality requirements.

“We have committed funding to undertake this work and the train supplier has already started to update the design of the train.

“The fleet will consist of 35 trains for long distance services on the Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast and Rosewood lines which will have two toilets. The remaining 40 trains will have no toilets, like Queensland Rail’s existing urban fleet.

“We will redesign the layout of the toilet modules to enhance access for people with a disability.

“This is not an overnight solution and we expect to progressively introduce the rectified trains in the next 18 to 24 months.

“While this solution is being implemented, we will roll the trains out for passenger service in their current layout, increasing network capacity for the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games.

“We will continue to engage with the disability sector throughout the detailed design and implementation process.

“I want to acknowledge and thank Qtectic, Bombardier and all the staff at Queensland Rail and TMR who have worked incredibly hard get us to this point.”

Over the next few weeks, Qtectic will prepare for the train to be handed over to Queensland Rail for commissioning and staff education activities in preparation for passenger services before the end of 2017.

NGR trains will continue to undergo reliability and performance runs across the South East Queensland network.

## **ENDS**

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