

Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 3 Broadbeach to Burleigh Heads

Project newsletter

May 2026

Image: Tram testing underway on Stage 3

From construction to testing: Stage 3 moves forward

Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 3 has reached an exciting milestone – the final testing and commissioning phase, ahead of welcoming passengers in mid-2026. A tram successfully travelled the full alignment late last month, running from Broadbeach South station to Burleigh Heads station and marking the first end-to-end journey.

Trams will continue operating along the corridor as systems, signals and the wider network are thoroughly tested to ensure safe and reliable operations. Tram services and stations remain closed while testing is underway.

Tram testing will progressively ramp up over the next three months, building to full operating speeds and running to timetables. Testing will occur day and night.

Completion works continue across the corridor alongside tram testing, with crews delivering final footpaths, road pavement works and commissioning CCTV and utilities. Roads, intersections and pedestrian crossings are rapidly shifting into their permanent configurations, and the community will see regular works as testing and construction come together to prepare the corridor for operations.

All 6.7 kilometres of dual track has been installed, and more than 59 kilometres of utilities have been upgraded or relocated, along with community upgrades that are complete or nearing completion, including Annette Kellerman Park, Memorial Park and the Nobby Beach precinct revitalisation.

Trams are on the move

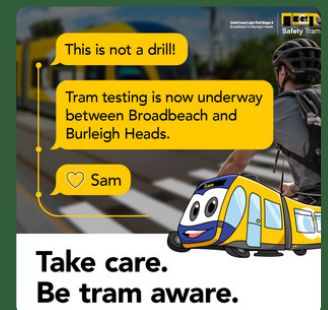
2026 is the year to **Get on board** and explore more of your Gold Coast as Stage 3 prepares to welcome passengers.

You may also spot a familiar face alongside the action – **Sam the Tram**.

Sam is here to remind us that trams are as heavy as two humpback whales, take time to stop and can sneak up on you like a mouse, so whether you are walking, cycling or driving remember:

- Tracks are for trams
- Always obey road rules and only perform U-turns where permitted
- Ditch the distractions and be alert
- Use designated crossings and cycleways

Keep up to date and follow us on Instagram @lightrailstage3



Eight new stations nearing completion

All eight new Stage 3 stations are nearing completion, bringing the project closer to delivering seamless travel from Broadbeach South to Burleigh Heads.

Easier, more accessible links between key neighbourhoods and destinations have been created by these stations. Burleigh Heads station will link to the new bus interchange and connect passengers directly with the wider public transport network.

Improved public spaces and footpaths, new pedestrian crossings, additional bike racks and safety enhancements surround the new light rail stations. These improvements are already benefiting the community, with most station crossings open and creating easier, safer access to beaches, café and restaurant precincts, local businesses and community spaces.

Stations are nearly complete but will not open to passengers until services begin in mid-2026. Stage 3 is moving another step closer to delivering smoother, simpler and more connected travel across the Gold Coast.



Image: Burleigh Heads station artist impression

Nobby Beach Piazza: A new place to meet, eat and celebrate

The Nobby Beach Piazza is visibly taking shape, with construction progress revealing an inviting new space designed to reflect the energy and character of this much-loved coastal precinct. Located beside the new Nobby Beach light rail station, the shared space has been created as a natural meeting point and event space beside the café, dining and local shopping area.

The revitalisation project delivers smooth paved surfaces, wider footpaths, shaded seating areas and pedestrian crossings, encouraging people to shop local, stroll between cafes and restaurants and simply enjoy the precinct.

As the sun sets, the piazza has been designed to shift pace. Thoughtfully placed lighting improves safety in the evenings, while creating a welcoming night-time environment that complements nearby restaurants and bars as they buzz with activity.

Local businesses remain open and accessible during construction, and the completed Nobby Beach precinct will create a vibrant event space and meeting point that strengthens local connections and supports traders.

We thank the community for your patience during these works.

Stay up to date at gclr3.com.au.



Image: Nobby Beach station artist impression

Sam the Tram brings safety messages to local schools

The Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 3 team marked the first week of full alignment tram testing between Broadbeach South and Burleigh Heads by hosting a series of fun and engaging safety events at local schools, helping students prepare for trams operating in their neighbourhoods.

Students and parents at Broadbeach State School, Burleigh Heads State School and Miami State High School kicked off their mornings chatting with the project team over a much-needed coffee or hot chocolate before getting hands-on testing their reaction times on the popular Batak game. The events featured our friendly Sam the Tram cartoon character, who delivered important safety messages in a fun and easy-to-understand way.

Members of the Stage 3 project team hosted the activations alongside representatives from City of Gold Coast and G:link.

The importance of being safe in and around the light rail corridor was highlighted as part of presentations and discussions as students walked, rode and drove to school. Students learned about the importance of using designated crossings and cycleways, staying alert near tracks, avoiding distractions such as phones and headphones, and remembering that trams take time to stop – so it is important to be alert.

Sam the Tram school visits help to build confidence, awareness and safe travel habits for students as testing progresses.

Visit gclr3.com.au/safetytram to explore our safety tram program.

Images: Safety Tram events at local Gold Coast schools



**Take care.
Be tram aware.**

Love Your Local: Supporting the heart of our local community

The Love Your Local campaign launched in October 2022 and has championed local businesses, strengthened community connections and delivered real outcomes across the Stage 3 alignment.

Our Business Engagement Team supports this work by collaborating with business owners and operators, the Gold Coast Central Chamber of Commerce, industry partners and community organisations to help local businesses remain informed, represented and operational during Stage 3 construction.

The Shop Local and Win Competition was the first initiative delivered under the campaign, running from October 2022 to September 2025. More than 380 vouchers were pre-purchased from local traders as prizes for community members who chose to shop local. This encouraged people to explore and support a range of business precincts along the Stage 3 alignment. Businesses such as Miss Jane Designs in Mermaid Beach and The Loop Store on Lower Gold Coast Highway recorded strong participation and engagement throughout the campaign. Participating businesses also received complimentary radio advertising as a thank you.

We sponsored local events including BLEACH Festival, Nobby's Street Fiesta and Burleigh bEATS Street Festival, as well as dedicated Love Your Local events such as our coffee mornings and the Burleigh Soundbox Session. About 430 vouchers were also purchased from local businesses as giveaways for the community.

Targeted Love Your Local support campaigns – developed to off-set the impact of long-term traffic changes and construction impacts – have seen 7,260 vouchers redeemed by local residents and visitors to date at participating businesses from Mermaid Beach to Burleigh Heads.

Local businesses have also taken part in Live Location Crosses with Triple M Gold, Sea FM and Hot Tomato, with around 120 broadcasts delivered since early 2023. Highlights included Liam from the Triple M Street Team getting his eyebrows waxed at Savvy Skin and Beauty in Mermaid Beach, Sonny from Miami Rice cooking up a lunch feast, and the Triple M team behind the counter making delicious wraps and coffee at Fuel Bakehouse in Burleigh Heads.

We thank members of the local business community for their ongoing patience while we play our part in constructing a more connected Gold Coast, and **local residents and visitors for continuing to shop, eat, drink and stay local.**



Image: Triple M Gold Coast handing out vouchers following a live cross

More information

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- Interpreter service: **13 14 50**
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Image: Burleigh Heads Soundbox Session Event