2013 a year of achievement for the Gold Coast light rail

2013 was a busy year on the Gold Coast light rail project, with more than $430 million spent locally and 2.77 million staff hours logged.

GoldLinQ CEO Phil Mumford said 2013 had been an interesting project year, not only reaching 100% of track laid but also a crocodile making an appearance on the tracks.

“We’ve had plenty of excitement on the project this year from a crocodile and Tusked Frogs to our city-changing achievements with underground services, track laying, trams testing and the launch of our operations brand – G:Link,” Mr Mumford said.

“With 30,000km worth of underground services installed, GoldLinQ has revamped much of the city’s underground. “That amount of underground services, end-to-end would be the same as driving from Brisbane to Perth seven times.”

While construction crews were hard at work achieving milestones across the year, G:Link’s operations arm also ramped up their activities.

Gold Coast residents overwhelmed operations partner, KDR Gold Coast, at a driver recruitment open day with more
than 1000 people applying for tram operator positions.

Trams have been running between Scarborough Street in Southport and the Gold Coast University Hospital for signal testing and driver training.

Closing out the year, Christmas construction shutdowns supported the project’s commitment to working with Gold Coast traders and residents, while keeping the project on schedule to take passengers in mid-2014.

In the new year the community will see trams testing up to mid year before taking passengers for the first time on the Gold Coast following landscaping, footpath reinstatement and other finishing works.

2013 Achievements

- Eight trams on the Gold Coast and the remaining six on the way.
- 100% track laid.
- Logged 2.77 million staff work hours on the project.
- More than 290,000 staff training and upskilling hours.
- $430 million project spend to date for Local Industry spend.
- 3509 track welds complete.
- All 52 intersections crossed with track.
- Depot building complete with operations staff moved in.
- All 16 stations under construction.
- Rescued more than 80 tusked frogs and relocated them to Currumbin Sanctuary, along with finding a juvenile crocodile, countless birds and other creatures around sites needing assistance.

Project staff have achieved a number of awards on the Gold Coast light rail project including:

- Construction Skills Queensland Construction Professional of the Year
- National Association of Women in Construction Achievement in Environment
- CFMEU Civil High Achievement Award.
- Construction Skills Queensland Employer Commitment to Training.

Works ramping up in 2014

The holiday season is nearly over for many people and works are again set to ramp up on the Gold Coast light rail project, with only 116 days until operations commence.

Safety is our first stop

Safety is the top priority for teams working on the project, especially as the testing and commissioning zone extends south of the Nerang River.

Here are some safety tips to keep in mind around the light rail system.

Frequently Asked Questions

How much will it cost to catch the tram?

Ticketing for the Gold Coast light rail will be integrated with Translink’s public transport network for South...
This year, teams will be working hard to install new pavements and footpaths, landscape along the corridor and test the light rail system south of the Nerang River.

Works will commence in Scarborough Street from the 14 January with crews moving into Surfers Paradise from 1 February to deliver a revamped urban landscape for the heart of the city.

2014 is also set to see the Bombardier Flexity 2 tram travel across the completed Nerang River Light Rail Bridge into Surfers Paradise for the first time.

Moving trams across the river will be a significant milestone for the project and a glimpse of what the future of transport on the Gold Coast will look like.

Look up and see the danger. The live overhead wires are dangerous and you should always treat them with extreme caution. If you see fallen wires, call 000 immediately.

Stay alert – trams are quiet. Trams are designed to be quiet. Stay alert and don’t be distracted by mobile phones or headphones. Always cross at designated crossings, look both ways and listen for the tram’s ‘ding ding’ warning bell.

Obey road rules and traffic signs. It’s important to follow the Queensland road rules around the light rail system. Remember, U-turns are illegal unless there is a U-turn Permitted sign.

As long as you follow all existing road rules, you will be completely safe around the Gold Coast light rail.

For more safety information, visit our website here.

East Queensland and goCard will be the recommended way to travel.

Under the current Translink structure, Stage one of the light rail covers two travel zones which currently costs an adult go Card fare of $3.53 for one zone or $4.14 for two zones during peak times.

The most you will ever pay for a single journey on Stage one of the Gold Coast light rail is $4.14. Concessions and other discounts may apply.

These prices are under the control of Translink and are subject to change.

For more information on go Card please visit Translink.com.au or call 13 12 30.

If the tram is running, why can’t I ride it yet?

The Gold Coast light rail is currently in its testing and commissioning phase. Trams are running to check that all systems are working properly, including the overhead lines, signaling and communications.

This comprehensive testing makes sure the system is safe and reliable for passengers.