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G:link Stage 2 confirmed for 2018 and Commonwealth Games

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Queensland Government today reached financial close with GoldlinQ for Stage 2 of the Gold Coast light rail which will extend from Gold Coast University Hospital station to the heavy rail network at Helensvale station. The GoldlinQ consortium consists of Keolis SA, Plenary Group, Marubeni Corp, Palisade and Aveng Australia.

Keolis Downer, a joint venture between Keolis and Downer Group, will operate and maintain the new network. Keolis Downer currently operate Stage 1 of G:link, as well as Yarra Trams in Melbourne and buses in three states.

The delivery of Stage 2 of G:link is planned for completion ahead of the Commonwealth Games in April 2018.

Keolis Downer's Group CEO, Benedicte Colin, said the commitment was a testament to the success of Stage 1, which serves more than 22,000 people each day and has been a catalyst for urban renewal.

"G:link has been instrumental in delivering a step change in public transport use on the Gold Coast. Use of public transport across both light rail and bus has increased by more than 25 per cent since operations started," said Mrs Colin.

"Stage 2 provides the missing link between the Gold Coast University Hospital and the QR rail network. The delivery of the extension will further integrate public transport on the Gold Coast and provide a vital link to Brisbane and beyond.

"Keolis Group is the world's largest operator of light rail, with 17 networks on three continents. Across the globe, we have seen community support grow rapidly for new light rail networks, with extension and expansion often following the commencement of operations on Stage 1.

"Well-planned investment in new light rail networks is a key catalyst for urban renewal and has played a role in more than \$6 billion of new investment in Broadbeach alone, with the Stage 1 corridor from Broadbeach to Southport realising the benefits," said Mrs Colin.

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Key Facts

- G:link Stage 1 is 13km and commenced operations in July 2014. In the first year of operations, G:link served more than 6.5 million passengers.
- Stage 2 includes a 7.3 km route and three stations (Parkwood, Parkwood East and Helensvale) linking QR's Helensvale Station with G:link's University Hospital Station.
- Stage 2 also includes a new 1000 car space park 'n' ride facility at Parkwood station and an additional 400 space park 'n' ride at Helensvale station.
- Stage 2 will be designed and constructed by CPB Contractors.
- Stage 2 is jointly funded by three levels of government, with contributions from the Queensland Government, Australian Government and City of Gold Coast.