

June 2021

Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 4 (Burleigh Heads to Coolangatta)

Have your say

Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 4

Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 4 will deliver a 13km extension south of Light Rail Stage 3, linking Burleigh Heads to Coolangatta, via the Gold Coast Airport. It will provide nine stations between Burleigh Heads and Tugun and further stations will be investigated between Tugun and Coolangatta as part of the current Multi-modal Corridor Study.

A future southern extension of the light rail will service important cultural and urban attractions including the Burleigh Heads Village Centre, Palm Beach Village Centre, Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary, Southern Cross University, Gold Coast Airport and Coolangatta shopping and business precinct.

Planning for the next stage

Burleigh Heads to Tugun

In 2020, the *Gold Coast Highway Multi-modal Corridor Study (Burleigh Heads to Tugun)* identified a number of opportunities along the corridor including:

- Transforming the Gold Coast Highway between Burleigh Heads and Tugun into a high amenity community boulevard.
- Improving the intersection of Palm Beach Avenue, Gold Coast Highway and Cypress Terrace through transformation into a pedestrian friendly precinct with the opportunity for street front dining, shopping and urban renewal.

- Upgrades to bridge crossings over Tallebudgera and Currumbin creeks including new active transport crossings.
- A land bridge to help protect wildlife between Burleigh Head National Park and Burleigh Ridge Park.
- Active transport options including developing a beachfront Oceanway path.

Tugun to Coolangatta

The Queensland Government has committed \$1.5 million to undertake the *Gold Coast Highway (Tugun to Coolangatta) Multi-modal Corridor Study*. The study will build on the work completed for the Burleigh Heads to Tugun section and will consider all transport modes to determine the preferred function for the next 20 years.

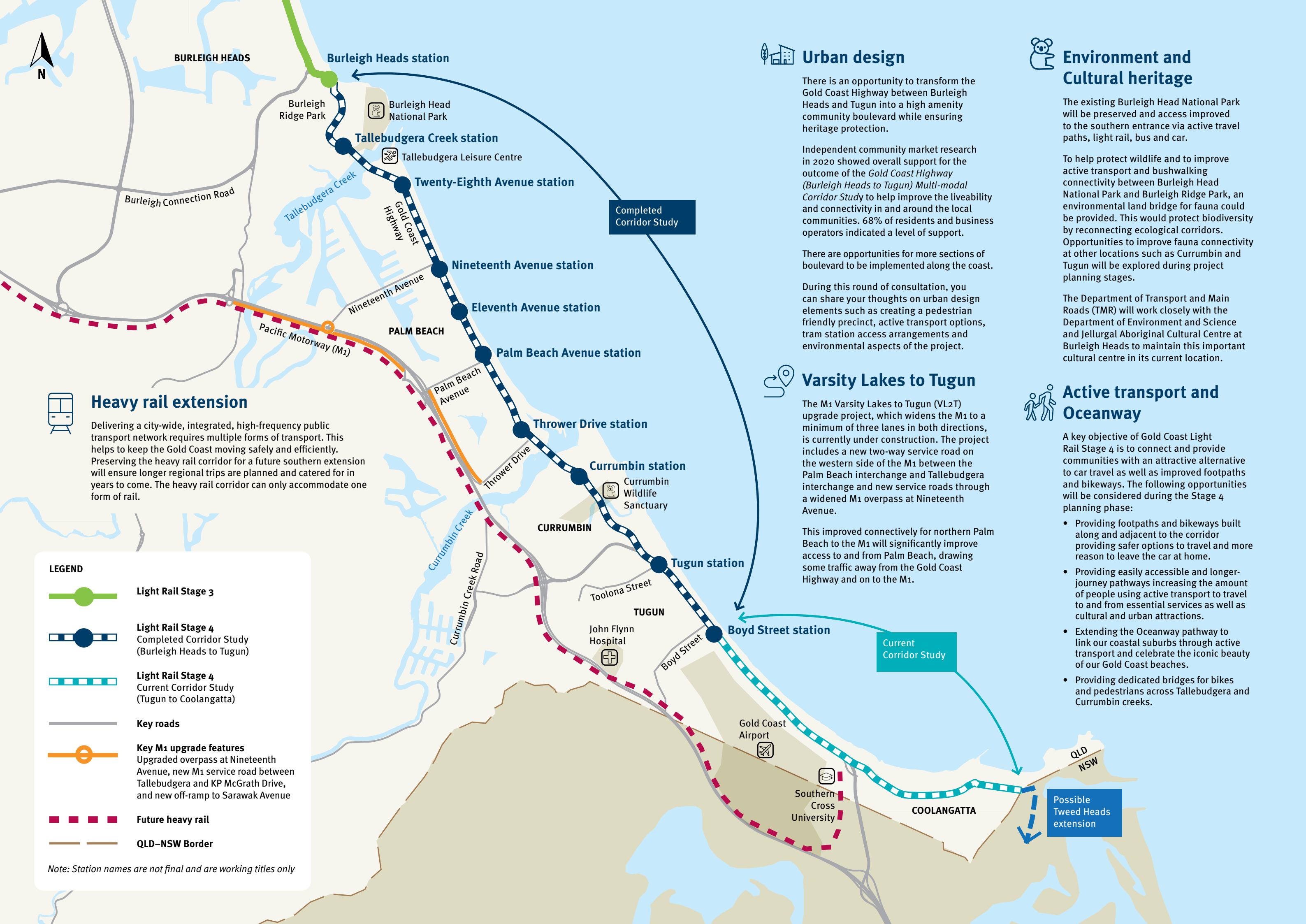
A further \$5 million, jointly funded by Queensland Government and City of Gold Coast has been committed to undertake a Preliminary Business Case for Light Rail Stage 4 from Burleigh Heads to Coolangatta, via the Gold Coast Airport.

Community engagement

Community engagement will take place across a 12-month period to coincide with the progress of the planning studies and focus on the sections; Burleigh Heads to Tugun (July – September 2021), Tugun to Gold Coast Airport and Gold Coast Airport to Coolangatta (early 2022).



Artist's impression: Light Rail at Burleigh Head National Park.



Heavy rail extension

Delivering a city-wide, integrated, high-frequency public transport network requires multiple forms of transport. This helps to keep the Gold Coast moving safely and efficiently. Preserving the heavy rail corridor for a future southern extension will ensure longer regional trips are planned and catered for in years to come. The heavy rail corridor can only accommodate one form of rail.

LEGEND

-  **Light Rail Stage 3**
-  **Light Rail Stage 4**
Completed Corridor Study (Burleigh Heads to Tugun)
-  **Light Rail Stage 4**
Current Corridor Study (Tugun to Coolangatta)
-  **Key roads**
-  **Key M1 upgrade features**
Upgraded overpass at Nineteenth Avenue, new M1 service road between Talbudgera and KP McGrath Drive, and new off-ramp to Sarawak Avenue
-  **Future heavy rail**
-  **QLD-NSW Border**

Note: Station names are not final and are working titles only



Urban design

There is an opportunity to transform the Gold Coast Highway between Burleigh Heads and Tugun into a high amenity community boulevard while ensuring heritage protection.

Independent community market research in 2020 showed overall support for the outcome of the *Gold Coast Highway (Burleigh Heads to Tugun) Multi-modal Corridor Study* to help improve the liveability and connectivity in and around the local communities. 68% of residents and business operators indicated a level of support.

There are opportunities for more sections of boulevard to be implemented along the coast.

During this round of consultation, you can share your thoughts on urban design elements such as creating a pedestrian friendly precinct, active transport options, tram station access arrangements and environmental aspects of the project.



Varsity Lakes to Tugun

The M1 Varsity Lakes to Tugun (VL2T) upgrade project, which widens the M1 to a minimum of three lanes in both directions, is currently under construction. The project includes a new two-way service road on the western side of the M1 between the Palm Beach interchange and Talbudgera interchange and new service roads through a widened M1 overpass at Nineteenth Avenue.

This improved connectivity for northern Palm Beach to the M1 will significantly improve access to and from Palm Beach, drawing some traffic away from the Gold Coast Highway and on to the M1.



Environment and Cultural heritage

The existing Burleigh Head National Park will be preserved and access improved to the southern entrance via active travel paths, light rail, bus and car.

To help protect wildlife and to improve active transport and bushwalking connectivity between Burleigh Head National Park and Burleigh Ridge Park, an environmental land bridge for fauna could be provided. This would protect biodiversity by reconnecting ecological corridors. Opportunities to improve fauna connectivity at other locations such as Currumbin and Tugun will be explored during project planning stages.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) will work closely with the Department of Environment and Science and Jellural Aboriginal Cultural Centre at Burleigh Heads to maintain this important cultural centre in its current location.



Active transport and Oceanway

A key objective of Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 4 is to connect and provide communities with an attractive alternative to car travel as well as improved footpaths and bikeways. The following opportunities will be considered during the Stage 4 planning phase:

- Providing footpaths and bikeways built along and adjacent to the corridor providing safer options to travel and more reason to leave the car at home.
- Providing easily accessible and longer-journey pathways increasing the amount of people using active transport to travel to and from essential services as well as cultural and urban attractions.
- Extending the Oceanway pathway to link our coastal suburbs through active transport and celebrate the iconic beauty of our Gold Coast beaches.
- Providing dedicated bridges for bikes and pedestrians across Talbudgera and Currumbin creeks.

Current Corridor Study

Possible Tweed Heads extension

Project timeline

Since the Gold Coast Light Rail started operations in 2014, it has provided more than 55 million passengers (as at May 2021) with an alternative way to move around this growing city. High-capacity public transport such as light rail allows the Gold Coast to respond to population growth and preserve the attractiveness and liveability of the southern Gold Coast.

The light rail system is designed to be delivered in stages. Stage 3 will expand the tram network to 27km from Helensvale to Burleigh Heads, connecting communities to jobs, businesses, hospitals, education and coastal precincts. As the network expands and patronage increases, light rail will continue to help reduce demand on local roads and improve the liveability and urban amenity of the city.

The Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 4 Preliminary Business Case is currently underway. It comprises of the first two stages of Business Case Development:

- Stage 1: Problem Identification and Prioritisation,
- Stage 2: Initiative Identification and Options Development.

It is anticipated the Preliminary Business Case will be completed by mid-2022 and will align with the completion of the *Gold Coast Highway (Tugun to Coolangatta) Multi-modal Corridor Study*.

A decision on future Queensland Government funding for the delivery of Stage 4 is dependent on the completion of a Detailed Business Case and funding from the Australian Government and City of Gold Coast.



Get involved and have your say

The Department of Transport and Main Roads will be consulting on the Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 4 planning from mid-2021 to mid-2022.

We would like to hear your views and find out what is important to you. You are invited to participate in our community consultation program to find out more about planning for the Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 4 and provide your input. The first round of consultation will be from July 2021 to September 2021.

Provide your feedback online



Visit the interactive community consultation website to find out more about the project and provide your feedback.

Visit: www.tmr.qld.gov.au/gclr4



Talk to us in person

The project team will be holding community drop-in sessions to enable you to ask questions and provide face-to-face feedback on Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 4 planning.

Visit the website to find out drop-in session locations and times for the first round of consultation for the Burleigh Heads to Tugun section.

Visit: www.tmr.qld.gov.au/gclr4

Contact us

If you would like further information about Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 4 or to register for updates, please contact the project team:

Phone: 1800 316 365*
Email: gclr4@tmr.qld.gov.au

*Check with your service provider for call costs.

13 QGOV (13 74 68)
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