

Barton Deakin Brief: Brisbane Metro

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During this year's local government elections in Queensland, Brisbane Lord Mayor Graham Quirk announced plans for a new \$1.54 billion, high frequency subway system called the Brisbane Metro.

The Brisbane Metro will run for seven kilometres, linking bus interchanges at Woolloongabba (south of the CBD) and Herston (north of the CBD).

This brief provides further information on the Brisbane Metro project.



Above: An impression of the Brisbane Metro passing over the Brisbane River on the Victoria Bridge.

Brisbane's public transport network

Brisbane's public transport network consists of buses and ferries overseen by Brisbane City Council, as well as heavy rail overseen by the State Government. Buses are operated by Brisbane Transport, ferries are operated by Transdev Brisbane Ferries and trains are operated by Queensland Rail.

Ticketing – including *go cards* – for all three modes of transport is overseen by TransLink, which is a division within Queensland's Department of Transport and Main Roads.

Currently 68 per cent of bus and train users in Brisbane travel by bus. In 2014-15, 76 million passengers travelled on Brisbane Transport buses and 38 million people travelled on private busses, while 52 million people travelled on the CityTrain network.



Capacity constraints

By 2031, Brisbane expects an 80% increase in public transport journeys in the city centre. Almost half (48%) of all public transport trips to the CBD will come from a 5 kilometre radius.

Currently about 170,000 employees, visitors and students travel to or through the city centre each day, mostly by public transport. This is expected to reach 250,000 people per day by 2031.

Brisbane City Council has identified areas where the CBD's bus infrastructure is already at capacity, such as the Cultural Centre Busway Station at South Brisbane. This station reached its capacity of 230 buses per hour in 2013.

Existing infrastructure will not be adequate to cope with anticipated population and usage growth.

The Brisbane Metro

The Brisbane Metro project involves building a dedicated metro system between Woolloongabba and Herston, to remove around 200 buses per hour from Brisbane's CBD streets and move up to 30,000 passengers per hour, during peak periods.

The seven kilometre system will run services at a two-minute frequency.

The Brisbane Metro is expected to more than halve peak commute times for many users. A trip from Woolloongabba to the CBD would be reduced from up to 20 minutes currently in peak times, down to a predictable 6.5 minute trip.

Key features of the project include:

- Specs: 7km from Woolloongabba to Herston, high frequency, rubber-tyred. (Similar to metro systems in Montreal, Paris, Miami, Tokyo and Hong Kong);
- Timeframe: To be built over the next six (6) years;
- Infrastructure: South Brisbane Busway Station to be moved underground, upgrades to several existing busway stations, a new portal on Adelaide Street with a new tunnel to connect to the existing Albert Street busway tunnel, a new terminus at Woolloongabba;
- Traffic changes: Victoria Bridge at North Quay will be closed to through traffic, converted to a "green bridge" with dedicated access for the Metro, buses and pedestrians.

The project is anticipated to cost \$1.54 billion, comprising:

- \$1.15 billion for Brisbane Metro line, tunnel and station construction;
- \$80 million for a stabling and maintenance depot at Woolloongabba for rolling stock;
- \$120 million for land purchases;
- \$170 million for 75 carriages for light metro sets, which is expected to grow to 150 carriages by 2031 to carry 30,000 passengers per hour; and
- \$20 million for the business case and detailed design.



Project progress

Following the re-election of Lord Mayor Graham Quirk and his LNP Council team in March, a Brisbane Metro project team is currently being appointed.

The project team will seek feedback from consultants and the private sector, as the business case and detailed design are developed.

Further information

Read more about the recent Queensland Local Government elections in our brief [here](#).

A recent Barton Deakin Brief that provides an overview of Brisbane City, its Councillors and Civic Cabinet is available [here](#).

For more information on how we can assist your organisation, please contact [Gerard Paynter](#) on +61 416 113 059 or [Lauren Clark](#) on +61 431 037 671.

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