

# Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games - managing unprecedented challenges in engineering logistics and traffic flow

## *Reflections from TMR engineers*

The Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games (GC2018) were held from 4 to 15 April 2018.

More than one million ticketed spectators and more than 50,000 workforce, contractors and media travelled during the GC2018 resulting in a significant demand on the transport network.

Delivering transport for the Games was a significant task. After years of careful planning, smart investment and effective execution, the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) delivered a series of infrastructure, systems and coordination processes to ensure the safe and efficient movement of unprecedented numbers of spectators and workforce.

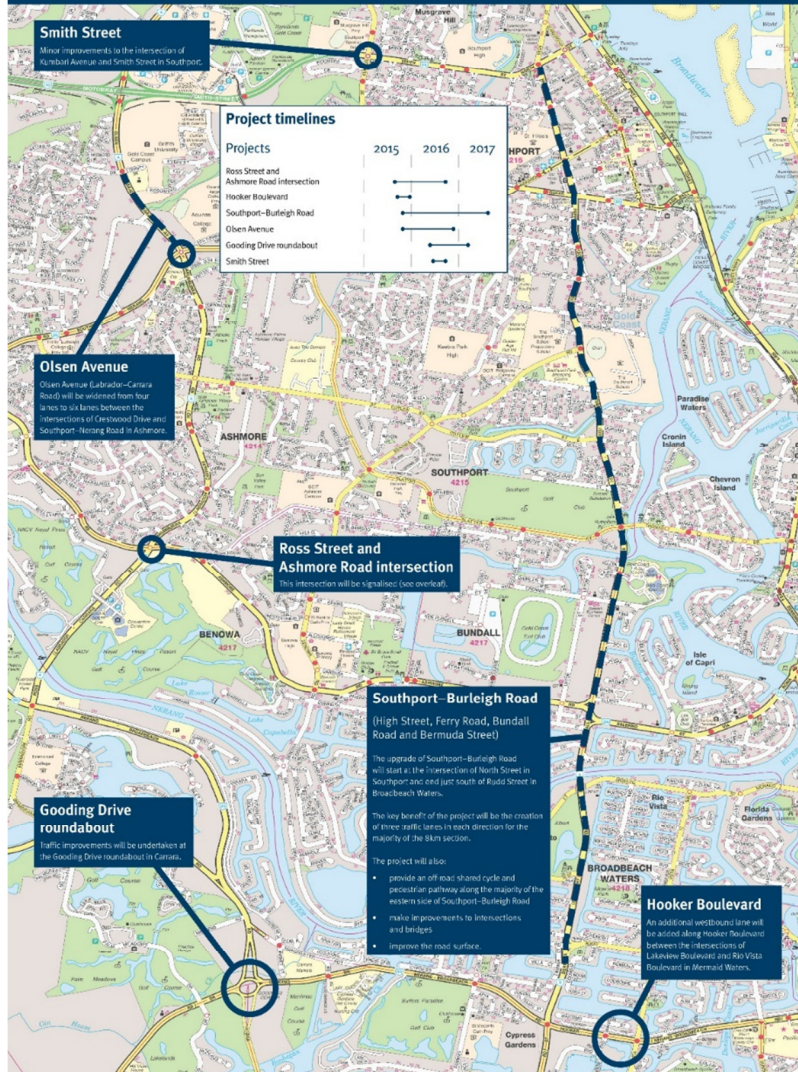


During GC2018, the road network needed to function efficiently to balance the travel movement priorities of athletes, officials and spectators, while also ensuring business-as-usual (BAU) travel movements could occur across the Gold Coast with minimal disruption.

A games route network (GRN) was developed to facilitate an efficient network, serving Games family transport movements to and from venues, accommodation and ports of entry.

The TMR Capital Works program included a \$160m package of works to improve capacity on parts of the network. These works included upgrades to Ross Street/Ashmore Road, Olsen Avenue/Southport Nerang Road and Smith Street/ Kumbari Avenue intersections as well as the Gooding Drive roundabout. Upgrades to the Southport-Burleigh Road also enhanced the network's capacity for north-south background traffic movements.

## Road network improvement projects



A range of road network planning work was undertaken in preparation for the Games, including the GRN. Games lanes dedicated for Games family, shuttle buses and public transport (TransLink) were provided on the core GRN route. The GRN and the games lanes facilitated reliable travel conditions for Games family with minimal delays around the network. The Games lanes along the GRN had the biggest impact on the Games-time road network for local traffic. Spectator shuttle buses and TransLink buses using Games lanes supported efficient public transport operations. The strategic locations of the Games lanes worked well and effectively supported Games family transport operations.



## Gold Coast Strategic Travel Map

### Legend

- Core GRN
- Primary route
- Secondary route
- Pacific Motorway (M1)
- Heavy Rail Line
- Light Rail Line
- Airport
- Commonwealth Games Village
- Venue location
- Venue Precinct

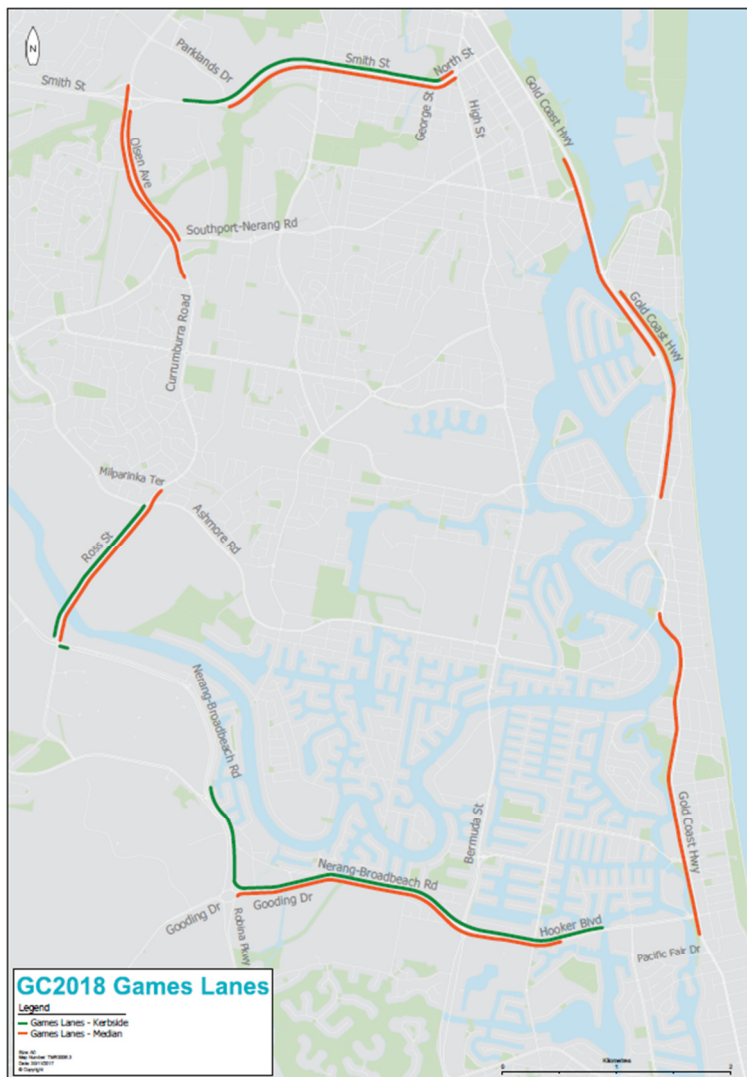
### Competition Venues

- Broadbeach Bowls Club
- Carrara Precinct
- Coolangatta Beachfront
- Coomera Indoor Sports Centre
- Currumbin Beachfront
- Gold Coast Aquatic Centre
- Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre
- Gold Coast Hockey Centre
- Nerang Mountain Bike Trails
- Oxenford Studios
- Robina Stadium
- Southport Broadwater Parklands

Date: 24.03.2017

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## Games-Time Strategic Route Map



- Legend**
- Games Lanes - Kerbside
  - Games Lanes - Median
- Scale: 1:50,000  
 Date: 24.03.2017  
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## Locations of Games Lanes

The successful completion of travel demand management measures (TDM) and enhanced rail services also assisted in providing a smooth traffic flow on the Pacific Motorway (M1).

The M1 Management Plan included the initiatives of trucks use left lane, reduced speed limits, ramp metering and enhanced incident response systems to keep the M1 moving. It should be noted, these measures were essential elements in the management of motorways and demonstrated the application of these principles would enable the motorway to be operated more effectively.

An extensive and complex program of traffic management initiatives including temporary signage, bollards as well as barriers and traffic marshals were also developed, managed and delivered on time.

One of the significant challenges was managing the objectives that the Games organising committee, TMR and local council were aiming to deliver for the local community. This also needed to be balanced with how motorists responded to traffic management plans.



A dedicated multi-modal, multi-agency Transport Coordination Centre (TCC) was established by TMR and partner agencies during Games time. This centre had increased capability and capacity across the transport modes to manage a heightened level of service and expectations from the community. Additional and strategically located incident response units also effectively supported emergency services in attending and responding to incidents quickly.

Traffic signal coordination and operation assisted in maintaining good levels of traffic throughout the Games. Effective coordination and operation of signals also provided excellent support to the Queensland Police Service during convoy operations and when responding to emergency situations.

Overall, Games-time transport operations were hailed a success at post-Games briefings.

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