Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning

Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 4 (GCLR4) Review - Terms of Reference

Background

The Gold Coast Light Rail (GCLR) system is being delivered over a number of stages with Stage 3 currently in progress consisting of a 6.7km extension of the network from Broadbeach South to Burleigh Heads, due to be completed in 2026.

The Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 4 (GCLR4) Preliminary Business Case was completed in March 2024 and suggested public transport options for the southern part of the Gold Coast may need to be improved between Burleigh Heads and Coolangatta.

The Queensland Government has committed to conducting a review of the analysis that concluded the preferred solution to improving public transport options for the southern part of the Gold Coast would be the GCLR4 extension. This review is required to include both technical analysis and public engagement to ensure that community views of the proposed corridor inform the final review report.

This Terms of Reference details the scope of the review.

Engagement objectives and activities

This review will be conducted openly and transparently in partnership with community consultation to assess the robustness of existing planning work and cost estimate, the priority of the GCLR4 project, deliverability, alternate routes and modes, and community feedback. The scope of this review includes:

- Assessing the robustness of any previous studies and confirming that the process followed Queensland Treasury's Project Assessment Framework.
- Assessing if the cost estimate is robust and its development has followed best practice guidance, as well as opportunities to access federal support.
- Assessing the priority of the project options considered and the robustness of the options analysis.
- Assessing deliverability, current demand, timeframes, community support and market conditions, to support efficient and cost effectivity project delivery in comparison to alternate routes and modes including those not previously considered.
- Assessing the robustness of the GCLR4 option for improved connecting services between the Gold Coast airport and existing (in delivery) GCLR3 in the context of projected demand and community support.
- Assessing if appropriate expert advice, and community engagement, has been obtained as necessary to identify and analyse all potential and preferred options including mode and route choice.
- Assessing whether future investigations should consider more than one option and ensuring the protection of Burleigh Heads Bowls Club, and Memorial Park, Tallebudgera Creek and Burleigh Head National Park.
- Assessing the prior public engagement and undertaking further engagement activities to seek community views on public transport availability and options that may be subject to further detailed analysis.

The review will primarily draw from results of community and stakeholder engagement to be undertaken, and consider existing analysis reports, including technical analysis, planning considerations, infrastructure demand and deliverability assessments.

The review will also involve consultation with stakeholders in relevant government departments and the City of Gold Coast Council.

Report

The output from the review is the final report. The report will include recommendations on review of existing analysis, outcomes of consultation, next steps, and additional work proposed.

The review report will be compiled for submission to the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations. Following approval, the final summary report may be published.

Public engagement

Community consultation and engagement will ensure transparency and that community views are representative of the local population. This will include a project webpage for written submissions and locally led community forums.

