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While the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games (Games) showcased some truly amazing athletic feats, the seven year marathon run by the City of Gold Coast (City) was in itself one epic journey.

And like any long distance event – we trained, we paced ourselves, made tough and strategic decisions at the beginning to ensure positive outcomes at the end and then we sprinted to the finish line when it really counted.

From my perspective when the curtain fell on the Games on April 15, it was pretty clear that as a City we had run a near perfect race.

But the truth is that we haven’t stopped running.

Our focus is, and always has been, the future of our city.

The planning
The City played a key role in ensuring the Games was a huge success.

Whilst the Commonwealth Games Organising Committee (GOLDOC) and the Queensland Government oversaw the successful delivery of the sporting event itself, we had to deliver a city ready to host the biggest event it had ever seen.

This phase of the journey was significant and all Games partners were determined to capitalise on the opportunities this event would bring, both before, during and after the event.

With an estimated viewing audience of 1.5 billion people we knew we had to get this right. We needed the world to see our city at its stunning best, the visitors had to be able to get around, the athletes needed world class facilities and our residents had to be proud of what we delivered.

Infrastructure projects were critical to the success of the Games, while also strengthening our position as a true event city. We had to ensure the right projects were delivered in the right place and fully fit for purpose. Across different levels of government, this task required careful planning and unparalleled level of co-ordination with our partner agencies, particularly the Department of Transport and Main Roads, with whom the City has forged an excellent working relationship.

Everything has been built with the future in mind. The venues were designed for our residents and built where our local community needed them. Transport upgrades have been constructed across the City, based on years of careful planning and traffic modelling.

In total, $13.5 billion in major infrastructure projects were delivered including $1 billion worth of transport infrastructure upgrades. Some of the key projects included:

- 14 km of active transport infrastructure
- stage two of the Gold Coast Light Rail
- intersection upgrades at key locations across the network
- $42 million upgrade to the Gold Coast Aquatic Centre
- $105 million Gold Coast Sports and Leisure Centre
- $16.5 million upgrade to the Gold Coast Hockey Centre
- $40 million Coomera Indoor Sports Centre
- $4.95 million upgrade to the Broadbeach Bowls Club.

But the venues and major infrastructure were only one element - we had a massive task ahead.

In particular, our City team: resurfaced roads, fast tracked disability access upgrades, upgraded signage, prepared residents and businesses for the Games-time changes, undertook beach nourishment programs, focused on arts and culture, dressed city areas that would be on show and ensured that every day of the games, our city was sparkling.

And all of this on top of our business as usual deliverables that kept the city ticking along over the past seven years. This included around $20 million of repair works after ex-Tropical Cyclone Debbie caused widespread damage in 2017.

Our people
So it’s safe to say that every City employee was involved in preparing for the Games in one way or another.

And we couldn’t have been prouder of their contributions.

We had staff involved in every aspect of the Games from planning and delivery of infrastructure, Games-time operations and precinct roles, city presentation, visitor information and venue maintenance. Significant effort was invested in strengthening partnerships with our fellow agencies in the state government and creating new ways of working collaboratively. Involvement of cross-agency staff in our respective operational control centres was a great example of this.
While our City staff brought expertise to the table, in some cases, we needed to engage specialists for expertise in Games-specific aspects including travel demand management, Games-time operations and international media engagement.

Each of these people brought with them experience in large-scale event delivery such as the Olympics and other Commonwealth Games. Many of these people are now chasing their next big event in other parts of the world but they left our staff with a wealth of knowledge and experience that will help set us in good stead for future events.

Traffic and transport.
Traffic and transport is a large program of works as the Gold Coast is a fast growing and multi-centred city with a complex traffic network.

In the lead up we delivered more than $100 million in one financial year in transport upgrades to accommodate capacity during the Games and future growth.

This included more than $23 million worth of shared path upgrades for pedestrians and cyclists, creating links to key city areas and event venues.

Significant attention was paid to improve the coordination of the traffic network and with the second stage of the Gold Coast Light Rail system finished in the months leading up to the Games, the network has never worked so well.

The City has also worked with the private sector to introduce a bike share service in time for the Games. The service has seen around 20,000 registered users utilising this means of transport to get to venues and festival activities across the coast for the Games and will form an integral part of our active transport offerings beyond.

Business engagement
This outcome was in no small part due to the City’s Travel Advice for Business Program which helped businesses prepare and understand the logistical challenges the Games would bring. The team collaborated with more than 7,000 key businesses across the Gold Coast, from Brisbane to Northern New South Wales and helped them plan ahead for the Games. The program reached more than 150,000 employees through one-on-one engagement and workshop attendance.

The team undertook the following in the lead up to the Games:
- 215 Travel Advice for Business workshops across 35 industries
- 1,000 online workshops completed
- 200+ customised Travel Action Plans
- engaged with more than 70 peak body organisations representing more than 300,000 members across South East Queensland.

This travel demand management program was critical to the successful operation of our transport network at Games time. The network performed seamlessly and this was thanks to our business community planning ahead and making changes to the way they travel.

Our transport network carried more people than ever before over the eleven days of competition. We saw people using different routes, travelling at different times and using different modes. This was all thanks to many years of planning and engagement.

Games time
Peak hour traffic barely existed during the Games-time period and it was amazing to see Gold Coast embracing public transport like never before. They really wanted to do whatever they could to help us deliver the best Games ever.

- A total of more than 7 million estimated trips were taken from 4 April -15 April.
- More than 5.5 million of those were made on the public transport network – record passenger numbers.
- The Pacific Motorway (M1) at Coomera River saw an increase in the total volume of cars.
- The increased services, seamless connections and free transport for ticketed spectators helped deliver a record number of journeys on the public transport network.
- G:link was one of the star performers of the Games with light rail carrying more than 1.1 million passengers.
- The Surfside bus network delivered across the length and breadth of the Gold Coast carried out more than 23 million passenger journeys.
- Our new bike share scheme was used for more than 8,000 Games-time trips.
- M1 and local road network exceeded expectations, with limited congestion for athletes, officials and spectators travelling during the Games.

Apart from the massive effort to prepare venues and transport routes, our City Maintenance staff deserve special mention for the huge effort spent keeping the City looking sparkling during the Games – no easy task given the increased number of visitors to the City.
The Way Ahead

There is no doubt that the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games has been a successful event in its own right as a prime international sporting event, as well as for the host, City of Gold Coast. The images beamed around the world had not only great coverage of the events, but showcased the Gold Coast as the unique and vibrant city that it is.

We are proud of our achievements in presenting the Gold Coast as a world class host city for major events and a place that our Games visitors would want to come back to and enjoy. We hope that the legacy of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games will not be simplified to sporting venues and infrastructure improvements but just the beginning for the city as a tourist and event destination. As many of our international visitors said “If you’ve never heard of the Gold Coast before, you have now!”

Surf Parade and Margaret Avenue intersection upgrade underway.

ADAC (Asset Design as Constructed) is a non-proprietary data specification and transport format (XML) for the description and transmission of asset design and as constructed data. Incorrect, missing or redundant data can cause your organisation significant time delays and money. ADAC is a strategic solution through quality data capture and management for government and utilities.

ADAC is available for asset owners at no cost, however we encourage you to become a member of the ADAC consortium. Benefits of membership include the ability to influence the ongoing development, governance and expansion of the specification. Consortium members also receive access to documents, tools and materials developed to support ADAC implementation and an opportunity to shape the strategic direction of ADAC in conjunction with BIM.

We have a panel of ADAC vendors and implementation partners which have been screened to ensure they possess the capabilities required to implement ADAC and to assist you with ongoing support.

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