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Index

NATION.....	12
WORLD.....	13
PUZZLES.....	14
LETTERS.....	16
TV.....	17
BUSINESS.....	27
SHARES.....	28
WEATHER.....	29
CLASSIFIEDS.....	30
RACING.....	31
SPORT.....	33

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END OF THE LINE AS TRAM BOSS CALLS TIME

Light rail chief switches tracks

GoldlinQ's Derek Leys takes up the CEO position from early August 2026.

Andrew Potts

The man who oversaw the light-rail journey from drawing board to three complete stages has called time after 15 tumultuous years.

Phil Mumford is retiring as CEO of tram contractor GoldlinQ, having led the organisation since it won the tender to deliver the project ahead of Stage 1.

He steps down following Sunday's launch of Stage 3, running between Broadbeach and Burleigh.

But he won't be going far, with Mr Mumford tapped to oversee the creation of the recently announced light-rail extension from Gold Coast

University Hospital to Harbour Town shopping centre.

GoldlinQ chairman John Witheriff said Mr Mumford would oversee the selection of the design and construction contractor for the project, which the state government says will be operational by the 2032 Olympic Games.

Mr Witheriff thanked Mr Mumford for his "dedication" and said he had ensured "the smooth operation of the G:Link for the past 12 years".

"GoldlinQ will continue to tap into Mr Mumford's considerable expertise in light rail and major transport infrastructure projects overall," he said.

Mr Mumford will be replaced by long-time GoldlinQ



Incoming GoldlinQ CEO Derek Leys.

chief operating officer Derek Leys.

Mr Witheriff said he was de-

lighted to work with Mr Leys going forward.

"I have had the pleasure of working with Mr Leys on a number of projects including Stage 1 and 3 of Gold Coast Light Rail," he said.

"His passion, people and project management experience will be critical to ensuring GoldlinQ's vital role in keeping light rail moving continues."

Mr Mumford arrived at GoldlinQ after a long career as an administrator, holding positions as CEO of Bundaberg Port Authority and Queensland Motorways where he oversaw the introduction of the e-toll system and the new Gateway Bridge before standing down in late 2010.

In June 2011 he was hired for the GoldlinQ post, which he described as "exciting".

"Rarely in your professional life do you get the opportunity to be involved in a public transport project that represents such a major leap forward for a city," he told the Bulletin at the time.

During his years in the post Mr Mumford was the face of the tram as it morphed from the Gold Coast Rapid Transit Project to G:Link and oversaw the successful launches of both stages one and two, seeing it through the Covid-19 pandemic and 2025's Cyclone Alfred, which forced the shutdown of the system for a handful of days.

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