

## First light rail station complete

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AFTER 12 months of construction of the Gold Coast Rapid Transit project the first light-rail station shell is complete - but don't get your tram tickets out just yet.

The \$33 million underground Gold Coast University Hospital Station shell is the bare bones of what will be a state-of-the-art light-rail stop at Parklands Drive.

It was opened this morning two months ahead of schedule by Transport Minister Annastacia Palaszczuk.

"Once fully operational and fitted out with lifts, escalators and toilet facilities, the station will act as the main bus interchange at the end of the light-rail line in Parklands Drive," she said.

The light-rail service is not expected to be running until mid-to-late 2014.

The works on the station shell were completed this year to avoid disrupting the Gold Coast University Hospital, which is expected to open next year.

Station shell project manager Peter Stanford said enough dirt was excavated from the site to fill 14 Olympic-sized swimming pools.