




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR YEERONGPILLY

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Achievements

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy and Water Supply) (10.13 am): The Palaszczuk government has shown a steady hand in steering the state through tough times. Under the previous LNP government, average electricity prices rose 43 per cent and went from below the national average to well above it. There were record electricity disconnections only last year. So we announced a new independent Queensland Productivity Commission to conduct a public inquiry into electricity prices.

When the LNP rushed through their decision to deregulate electricity prices on 1 July, they did not listen to groups that represent our most vulnerable Queenslanders about a major change that would have happened in just six weeks time. The Palaszczuk government has listened. That is why we announced the deferral of electricity price deregulation in South-East Queensland by 12 months, to ensure people are fully informed and prepared for this major change.

In another change, Queensland has a road safety minister for the very first time. To address the alarming spike in the Easter road toll, we convened a forum of road safety experts here in Parliament House. The outcomes of this forum will shape our Road Safety Action Plan for the next two years. Our multibillion dollar investment in road infrastructure is seeing road projects rolling out across the state, with more than 28,000 jobs.

I recently joined the Deputy Premier to announce a major upgrade of the M1 exit at Coomera—\$47.4 million from the state government in a joint funding package which has given the green light to a major development of the Coomera Town Centre where thousands of jobs will be created, along with more than \$1 billion in new investment. The Premier recently inspected the Angellala Creek Bridge site near Charleville which was wiped out by a massive explosion almost a year ago. Now works are about to start and a new bridge will be in place before the year is out—again, more jobs and in regional areas. In my portfolio there are workers helping to supply the electricity and water we need for our homes, hospitals, schools and childcare centres. There are workers building our roads.

Let us talk briefly about the definition of a ‘front-line worker’. In late 2012, under the previous LNP government, the Public Service Commission discontinued reporting against ‘front-line’ and ‘non-front-line’ workers, after earlier redefining a ‘front-line worker’ from someone who spent a majority of their time in contact with the public to someone who spent 75 per cent of their time in contact with the public. The Palaszczuk government will continue to respect all public servants for the work they do—such as restoring Central Queensland’s power system after Tropical Cyclone Marcia in only 12 days. The people of Queensland expect nothing less.

We are also steering Queensland towards a cleaner, greener energy future. We plan to unlock the potential of Queensland's biofuels and biomanufacturing industries with an ethanol mandate to create new jobs in regional areas. We are also opening up the energy supply market for homes and business to take up solar power purchase agreements. Queensland now has among the highest penetration of rooftop solar PVs in the world. We want to shout it from our solar rooftops that once again Queensland is open for business.