



Speech By Hon. Annastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Record of Proceedings, 17 February 2016

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Cannonvale, Bus Crash

Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (2.02 pm): I rise to extend my sincere condolences to the families of those affected by yesterday's bus crash in Cannonvale. All 12 passengers on board and the driver were injured in this serious crash. Tragically, a young 19-year-old man lost his life. We also know that three passengers are still listed as being in a critical condition. My thoughts are with the family of the young man who was killed in the crash and the families of those who have been injured. Many of the injuries are very serious and our thoughts are with the passengers as they continue to receive treatment and care from medical staff at the Proserpine Hospital, the Mackay Base Hospital and the Townsville Hospital. I would also like to pay tribute to our emergency services, the Queensland police and Queensland Ambulance Service, and hospital staff who responded quickly to this accident and treated the passengers and driver. I am also advised that the members for Mackay and Whitsunday were briefed over the course of yesterday and today and I know their thoughts are with the families involved as well.

The Minister for Transport is clear that his No. 1 priority for road and rail transport is safety and I know the road safety minister fully supports this as well. The crash is currently under investigation by the Queensland Police Service and I know TransLink are fully supportive of this investigation. The department of transport is conducting a bus safety forum on Monday which is a regular meeting of industry, government, employee and police representatives and academic experts on safety and transport. Accidents like this highlight the importance of safety and the Minister for Transport will be attending this forum to outline this government's commitment to safety.