



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Bailey**


**MEMBER FOR YEERONGPILLY**

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## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Toowoomba Second Range Crossing**

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (10.06 am): I am pleased to be able to update the House on progress of the \$1.6 billion Toowoomba Second Range Crossing and the up to 1,800 full-time jobs that go with it. This project has tremendous significance for regional economic development and for productivity and supply chain opportunities, as well as training and skills development. The contractor, Nexus Infrastructure, is building its team in Toowoomba with major construction works to begin in coming months, with the road expected to be operational by late 2018. Nexus Infrastructure has a team of 85 working hard on the detailed design of the road. Other teams are engaged in the critical preconstruction works, which includes surveys and geotechnical investigations.

I can advise the House that we are now improving connectivity to Boundary Street with the installation of new ramps at a total cost of \$5 million, of which \$1½ million will be contributed by the Palaszczuk government, \$1 million by the Commonwealth and \$2½ million from the council. These works will deliver improved access to the growing industrial and commercial areas to grow jobs in the region, improve access to the growing industrial and commercial areas surrounding the very impressive Wellcamp Airport west of Toowoomba, better traffic distribution into Toowoomba and improved emergency vehicle response.

The link between the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing and the Warrego Highway in the busy Charlton industrial precinct west of Toowoomba will also be futureproofed. The overpass bridges over the westbound lanes of the Warrego Highway will be made longer to leave room for a possible cloverleaf link between the two roads when traffic numbers warrant it. The Department of Transport and Main Roads has engaged an independent archaeologist to ensure that any cultural heritage claims or concerns regarding the project are properly recognised and protected and my department is working closely with the traditional owners, the Western Wakka Wakka people and the Jagera people.

The crossing will deliver real benefits for the region, including time savings of up to 40 minutes by bypassing the current Toowoomba range; the diversion of heavy vehicles away from the Toowoomba CBD and Withcott in the Lockyer Valley; freight of all sizes, including explosives and oversize loads, will have a faster and safer route to and from key markets; the avoidance of up to 18 sets of traffic lights; and, as the Minister for Road Safety, of course I am extremely pleased to see the improved road safety features as part of this project. The Palaszczuk government is getting on with this project and the 1,800 jobs that go with it. I will continue to keep the House updated on its progress.