



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Bailey**


**MEMBER FOR YEERONGPILLY**

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Record of Proceedings, 24 February 2016

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Accelerated Works Program**

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (2.16 pm): My Department of Transport and Main Roads is playing a leading role in delivering the Palaszczuk government's Accelerated Works Program. As we act to accelerate and generate jobs in North Queensland, Transport and Main Roads is bringing forward 11 important infrastructure projects. This accelerated program of works is worth nearly \$78 million and will deliver an estimated 243 jobs for the region. These are projects already planned under the Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program, and it is that advanced planning program that has allowed us to accelerate these works. They include earlier road safety works, such as new overtaking lanes on the Bruce Highway, as well as intersection upgrades, road widening, wide centre line treatments and the construction of a heavy vehicle decoupling facility on the Townsville port road.

The Palaszczuk government also approved acceleration of an upgrade of the Port of Townsville's berth 4—a \$55 million project creating 100 jobs that will boost productivity for the Townsville port and the region. In addition, the \$28 million Vines Creek bridges project in the Mackay region has been incorporated into the Accelerated Works Program following the 1 February announcement where the Premier and the member for Mackay joined me in Mackay at the bridges to say that we would be fast-tracking it in 2016-17, a year ahead of schedule. This project will support 42 jobs, and it will ensure that heavy vehicles can travel direct to the port and it will boost economic activity and jobs in the region.

We have not finished there. We are continuing to identify additional funded projects across the rest of the state which can be brought forward. We are proposing a further nine infrastructure projects for acceleration, and that equates to more than \$174 million. Across the south-east there are several key unfunded priorities where we need the federal government to come on board and commit to funding their fair share, just as they do in other parts of Queensland and just across the border in New South Wales. In particular, the Ipswich Motorway from Darra to Rocklea stage 1 and the Pacific Motorway and Gateway Motorway merge are high priorities. Both of these projects will not only improve road safety but also help lift productivity for industry and jobs across South-East Queensland, to add to the 71,000 jobs already created in the first year of the Palaszczuk government.

The importance of these projects was highlighted in the Palaszczuk government's submission to Infrastructure Australia, and Infrastructure Australia's recently published priority list identifies them as priority initiatives. The Ipswich Motorway is a nationally accredited key freight route connecting interstate and key regional gateways to the Brisbane area, the Australia TradeCoast economic precinct and beyond. The Pacific Highway is the highest trafficked road in Queensland, with 147,000 movements a day and 12,000 heavy vehicles and is an enabling link for long-distance traffic, including tourism, commuter and freight traffic moving between major economic hubs along the east coast of Australia. We need these projects to progress as soon as possible and we need the federal government to get serious about meeting their obligations to Queensland motorists.