



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Bailey**


**MEMBER FOR YEERONGPILLY**

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## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Ipswich Motorway

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (10.03 am): I am pleased to advise the House that the Palaszczuk government has boosted its funding commitment to upgrading the Rocklea-Darra stretch of the Ipswich Motorway, unblocking the gridlock and creating 470 jobs. Since being elected we have had our \$111 million or 20 per cent of funding for this infrastructure project on the table and ready to go. That is the same proportion as for the Bruce Highway, the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing, the Warrego Highway upgrade and the Gateway North upgrade.

We have now made the decision to boost that commitment to 50 per cent in an effort to get the project up and running. This \$200 million commitment is an enormous step in getting this project going, and means relief is in sight for motorway users, who currently face mass congestion in peak times. The Palaszczuk government has gone further than the do-nothing Newman government ever did on the Ipswich Motorway.

In order for this \$400 million project to become a reality, we need the Turnbull government to come to the table and meet our commitment fifty-fifty. The fact is that last year the Abbott government retracted its funding for the Rocklea-Darra upgrade—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr BAILEY:** They do not want to hear it. They will not stand up for Queensland. The fact is that last year the Abbott government retracted its funding for the Rocklea-Darra upgrade, wiping \$279 million from infrastructure in Queensland. They also took the extraordinary step of downgrading the status of the motorway by removing it from the National Land Transport Network.

The Ipswich Motorway is currently a major source of frustration for more than 85,000 motorists who use this section of the motorway daily. That includes up to 12,000 trucks from the freight industry. This infrastructure upgrade is essential to improve the capacity of the Ipswich Motorway by upgrading lanes between Granard and Oxley roads from four to six. Two additional lanes between Granard and Oxley roads will not only significantly improve the capacity and reliability of the motorway but also ease freight access to the major industrial precinct of Rocklea, to the Acacia Ridge intermodal facility and to the Port of Brisbane and Trade Coast precinct. This project will lift productivity for industry, improve travel time and deliver reliability and a safer, faster journey for people travelling to and from South-East Queensland's expanding western suburbs.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the strong local advocates who have stood up for the Ipswich Motorway and are supporting this project: Shayne Neumann, the federal member for Blair; Milton Dick, the federal Labor candidate for Oxley; and our hardworking state MPs—the member for

Sunnybank, Peter Russo; the member for Ipswich West, Jim Madden; the member for Ipswich, Jen Howard; and the member for Bundamba, Jo-Ann Miller. I would also like to thank Mayor Paul Pisasale for his support for this project.

There has been strong support from industry bodies too. The Queensland Trucking Association recognises the importance of this upgrade to the freight industry and the productivity improvements it will bring. We want to get this infrastructure project up and running. The business case has been submitted to the federal government. It is now up to the Turnbull government to show it is supporting Queenslanders, supporting infrastructure, supporting jobs for the Queensland economy—something that those opposite never did for three years. They never delivered on the Ipswich Motorway. They did nothing for Ipswich. We are getting on with the job to make sure this is happening.