




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR YEERONGPILLY

Record of Proceedings, 16 March 2016

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

State Infrastructure Plan, Road Infrastructure

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (2.18 pm): The Palaszczuk government's State Infrastructure Plan will deliver important projects right across Queensland. On the Sunshine Coast, \$22 million has been allocated for an intersection upgrade package on Kawana Way and Nicklin Way as part of the State Infrastructure Plan to improve access to the new Sunshine Coast University Hospital, which is due to open next year. These infrastructure projects will focus on enhancing capacity and improving road safety to cater for traffic growth. Construction will be staged, with highest priority upgrades, including Jamaica Way, Kawana Island Boulevard and Metier Linkway to be completed before the hospital opens. These upgrades will benefit those accessing the hospital by improving travel time reliability. These new infrastructure upgrade works will sustain 43 jobs during construction.

Last year my colleague Minister Dick and I established an interagency Queensland government task force to assist with transitional issues leading up to and after the hospital opens. As part of its ongoing review into access arrangements, the task force developed this infrastructure upgrade package which the Palaszczuk government has now funded as part of the State Infrastructure Plan.

I will continue to work with my colleague the Minister for Transport to consider infrastructure projects that will keep improving access to the new hospital and surrounding precinct. We are delivering projects not props. In addition to these works, Transport and Main Roads has already upgraded signalised intersections along Nicklin Way with emergency vehicle priority technology. This smart emergency vehicle priority technology will be switched on once the hospital is opened and will give priority to emergency service vehicles for urgent cases.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BAILEY: Mr Speaker, you would think the opposition would be interested in saving lives. Apparently not. This smart technology has demonstrated a significant reduction in travel times for emergency service vehicles across the controlled road network operating in Bundaberg, the Sunshine Coast, the Gold Coast and Brisbane. I am pleased to advise the House that earlier today the emergency vehicle priority project took home top honours at the Australian Road Safety Awards, winning both the state government category and the prestigious founders award for outstanding achievement. I commend all those who have been involved in developing this smart, innovative technology that will save lives and will use our infrastructure better.

The Palaszczuk government's State Infrastructure Plan will build the infrastructure needed to grow the economy and productivity, meet community needs and support jobs for Queenslanders. This infrastructure project package, as part of our State Infrastructure Plan, with \$22 million in new funding, is another good example of that and I commend it to the House.