




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR YEERONGPILLY

Record of Proceedings, 17 March 2016

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

State Infrastructure Plan

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (10.06 am): The Palaszczuk government's State Infrastructure Plan shows how we will deliver major infrastructure projects across the state that will grow jobs, productivity and the economy, particularly in regional Queensland. An important future project for North Queensland is the duplication of Riverway Drive, and this government is getting it done.

A three-kilometre section of Riverway Drive will be duplicated between Gollogly and Allambie lanes in the Upper Ross. The project will cost about \$30 million and is expected to provide up to 60 direct jobs for the North Queensland community over the delivery period. That will provide much needed job opportunities for a local community which has taken a batter in recent months due to the nickel refinery mismanagement. This duplication is good news for motorists, for heavy vehicles and the transport industry, and for the wider community in North Queensland. One of the major benefits will be the improved road safety and travel time reliability for the nearly 19,000 motorists using this road every day.

We are currently working on awarding the contract for detailed design to start in late April 2016 which will deliver a value-for-money solution to ease congestion and improve access to local businesses, schools and local residents. It will also support the Port of Townsville's \$1.3 billion port expansion project, which will involve the creation of six berths, channel widening and deepening. The Port of Townsville is a vital trading port for North Queensland, with over 11 million tonnes of trade worth about \$11 billion each year. It is also where the Palaszczuk government is expanding capacity by up to 20 per cent with the \$55 million berth 4 upgrade, turning one of the major berths into a containerisation port.

This is on top of the Palaszczuk government's commitment in Townsville to the Townsville ring-road—the \$200 million jointly funded stage 4; the first three stages were all built by previous Labor governments. It is also on top of the \$6 million in Safer Roads Sooner funding for Hervey Range Road, which will start in the near future, as well as our accelerated works package in North Queensland which includes \$115 million worth of funding for Bruce Highway overtaking lanes, the northern access intersection, the Arnot Creek bridge upgrade and a road train decoupling pad on the port road worth \$1 million. This is a very strong commitment to North Queensland.

I would also like to thank the member for Thuringowa, Aaron Harper, for his strong advocacy not only for this project but for a whole range of projects right across his community. The Riverway Drive duplication is a great example of how the Palaszczuk government through its State Infrastructure Plan is delivering real funding and real infrastructure for all Queenslanders, no matter where they live.