




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR YEERONGPILLY

Record of Proceedings, 21 April 2016

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Northern Australia Roads Program

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (10.08 am): Queensland is a vast state with a decentralised population that is served by our extensive road network. The Palaszczuk government is continually working to improve and invest in our statewide road network, including through the recent State Infrastructure Plan, which included announcements benefiting Gladstone along the Dawson Highway from Biloela, the duplication of Riverway Drive in Townsville, the upgrades along Kawana Way and more direct access to the meatworks from Gracemere through Rockhampton in the electorate of the Minister for Police.

We have a range of other projects across the state such as the \$12½ million upgrade of the critical intersection of Urraween Road and Maryborough-Hervey Bay Road that I mentioned yesterday. As the Premier has said, to do this work it is essential that local councils and the federal government work in partnership with the state government to maximise outcomes for Queenslanders. That is why it is important that the Turnbull government announces the successful projects from the Northern Australia Roads Program. We have sought funding for a range of projects that are critical for regional Queensland. Queensland put forward 25 North Queensland projects seeking a federal contribution of around \$590 million on the appropriate 80-20 funding split. For the benefit of the House, I table a summary of our submission. We have been expecting the federal government to announce the successful projects for quite some time.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Table 1—Queensland's Northern Australia Roads Programme' [\[559\]](#).

Key benefits of the Northern Australia Roads Program include boosting economic productivity by decreasing delays and improving travel time on tourism routes and supply chains; reducing social and economic costs of fatal and serious injury crashes; enhancing remote, rural, regional and urban liveability through improved accessibility; and boosting overall economic confidence and support.

Our submission on behalf of North Queenslanders includes upgrades to the Flinders Highway between Charters Towers and Townsville, Hughenden and Cloncurry; the Barkly Highway, upgrading intersections in Mount Isa; Landsborough Highway between Longreach and Winton; and the Capricorn Highway duplication between Rockhampton and Gracemere, the upgrade of the Valentine Creek Bridge as well as overtaking lanes between Rockhampton and Emerald. We have also included the Gregory Developmental Road, widening between Charters Towers and Belyando, and an upgrade of the Cape River Bridge. In Cairns it includes the duplication of the Bill Fulton Bridge and an upgrade of the Cairns Airport access.

We are already facing one of the longest federal election campaigns in history. I call on the Turnbull government to support North Queenslanders and end their wait for this funding which they certainly need sooner rather than later.