




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR YEERONGPILLY

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Road Infrastructure

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (2.38 pm): The Palaszczuk government is continually working to improve Queensland's vast road network. The 2015-16 to 2018-19 Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program, or QTRIP, as most of us know it, outlines \$18.8 billion in investment to deliver a safe and reliable transport network across Queensland.

QTRIP supports an average of approximately 15,000 direct jobs over the life of the program, not only delivering improved roads but providing jobs and boosting our regional economies. The Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme, or TIDS as it is fondly known around local government circles, provides targeted investment in local government transport infrastructure, bringing together councils and my department in a fifty-fifty program funding regional roads.

As part of the previous Newman-Nicholls government, \$600 million worth of cuts to transport funding was instigated by the now opposition leader, the member for Clayfield, and of course his close compadre, the member for Indooroopilly. TIDS funding was reduced by 37 per cent, a \$23.3 million cut. That was against the strong objections of local governments right across Queensland of all political stripes.

In contrast, before the last election, the Palaszczuk government increased TIDS based funding by \$30 million per annum for two years starting from 2016-17. When we got into government, we accelerated this increase and brought forward our election commitment by one year to deliver much more regional jobs sooner to the widespread support of mayors and councillors right across Queensland. There has probably not been a single issue where I have had more positive feedback from local government than our boosting to TIDS funding to boost our regional road program. We have increased the TIDS funding from \$40 million per annum to \$70 million per annum in Queensland.

It is estimated that in 2015-16 the TIDS program will support 461 jobs in regional communities right across Queensland. In November last year I wrote to the former deputy prime minister, the Hon. Warren Truss, outlining Queensland's submission to the five-year \$600 million Northern Australian Roads Program. Queensland's submission focused on key freight routes, including the Flinders, the Landsborough, the Gregory, the Peak Downs and the Capricorn highways and the Gregory Developmental Road as high priorities for funding. It also included regional roads connecting communities across Northern Queensland, including the progressive sealing of sections of the Hann Highway over the next five years.

In all, Queensland put forward 25 projects seeking federal contributions of around \$590 million on the appropriate 80-20 funding split. We have been expecting the federal government to announce these successful projects for the past several months and we are still waiting. The Turnbull government

has also failed to reveal its \$1.6 billion worth of spending decisions as part of the federal budget that happened weeks and weeks and weeks ago. Queensland roads are too important to become a political football in the federal election campaign. I call on the Prime Minister and the federal Treasurer to release their hidden funding decisions so Queenslanders can get on with the job, get on with these projects and get regional jobs going in Queensland. They should not have to wait because of the longest federal election campaign in our history.