




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR YEERONGPILLY

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Cairns Southern Access

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (10.07 am): The Palaszczuk government understands the importance of a safe and reliable road network. We are constantly improving roads throughout our state. The Bruce Highway is a major priority for the Palaszczuk government and vital for our Queensland economy.

Last week I was in Cairns with the hardworking member for Barron River, Craig Crawford, who as a former paramedic knows how important our roads are. We visited the early works occurring on the \$58 million Cairns Southern Access Corridor Stage 2 on the Bruce Highway. I can inform the House that major works are due to start in coming weeks. This project widens the Bruce Highway from four to six lanes between Foster and Robert Road and will support an average of 147 Far North Queensland direct jobs over the life of the project.

I was also pleased to announce the Palaszczuk government has secured an in-principle agreement from the federal government to accelerate planning and delivery on the \$135 million Cairns Southern Access Stage 3. Earlier this year I wrote to Minister Chester requesting this project to be accelerated as it is an important upgrade for local residents in Far North Queensland. This project will widen the Bruce Highway from four to six lanes from Kate Street to Aumuller Street. This acceleration will bring construction forward more than 12 months to mid-2018, creating employment opportunities for locals at a time when Cairns really needs it. It will also reduce congestion and, of course, improve road safety for all users. These projects are jointly funded using the funding formula used for roads on the national land transport network as set out by the federal government, which should be applied to all sections of the national land transport network in Queensland.

I note that the Prime Minister is in Queensland this week and has yet again failed to commit to funding the M1, which is also on the National Land Transport Network. Not one single dollar for one single kilometre of the M1 has been committed by the Turnbull government—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BAILEY: It would be better for the opposition to lobby the federal government rather than bleat in here—to upgrade this crucial road. It is the highest trafficked road in Queensland with 147,000 movements a day. The Palaszczuk government has put real money on the table—\$42 million under the State Infrastructure Program—to fix the M1 at the merge, and the Turnbull government continues to do nothing. On the other hand, we have seen a \$168 million commitment from the federal opposition to fully fund the Gateway-M1 merge, which I welcome as a clear fix to a major stop on the M1. We want Queenslanders, no matter where they live, to be able to travel safely along our roads. We will continue to invest and advocate for funding for our roadworks, especially the M1. It is time the federal government stood up and started investing in the most highly trafficked road in Queensland.