



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Bailey**


**MEMBER FOR YEERONGPILLY**

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Record of Proceedings, 14 September 2016

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Cape York, Road Infrastructure**

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (2.24 pm): In the same vein of expanded job opportunities through tourism just outlined by Minister Jones, I would like to update the House on the fantastic work being done on the \$260 million joint state-federal Cape York regional package and in particular the Peninsula Development Road. The main road into the cape used to be a dirt track, making access difficult. However, I am pleased to report that 78 kilometres of the road has now been sealed, driving the economy with better access for freight, locals and tourists. This year 180 jobs have been generated, providing skills and work for Indigenous trainees, employees and businesses.

Transport and Main Roads recently posted a before and after video on their Twitter and Facebook pages of the work being done in this catalyst project. Feedback to date includes the Cape York Land Council saying in the *Cairns Post* that they were pleased so far with the work done. I recently received a letter from Mayor Aileen Addo of the Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council. She said—

I have been privileged to drive this route over the years and I note recent works have improved the experience immensely. As you are well aware, this road is the life blood to our region and the conditions change according to the seasons—impacts by wet and dry conditions. I commend the department for the projects have been completed and I look forward to driving on the new roads when they are completed.

I table the letter from Mayor Addo, who was very kind to let us know her views.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 24 August 2016, from the Mayor of Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council, Councillor Aileen Addo, to the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply, Hon. Mark Bailey, regarding appreciation for projects aligned to the Peninsula Development Road [\[1515\]](#).

I also met today with the Mayor of Lockhart River, Wayne Butcher, who was also very praising of the project for his community. These projects are improving the safety of Cape York's road network and strengthening the local economy. Importantly, they are providing training, jobs and economic development opportunities for local Indigenous communities.

Contracts have been awarded for the 2016 Peninsula Development Road program of works. Koppens Developments were awarded the Coen South contract. I note that Minister Grace recently met with them in Cairns to discuss the positive impacts of the Palaszczuk government's Back to Work regional jobs package. Robinson Civil Constructions FNQ were awarded the Archer to Wolverton contract. I am very pleased to report that the Cape York based and Indigenous owned NQ Civil Engineering Contracting has been awarded the contract to seal a five-kilometre section of the Peninsula Development Road between Little Laura and Fairview. As well as the three contracts recently awarded by TMR, RoadTek were awarded the Musgrave contract and will provide targeted development of Indigenous businesses to assist them in seeking future prequalification.

Economic and job opportunities for Indigenous people have been increased across all facets of the Cape York region package. Just one excellent example is that of the three former construction crew members from the Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council who have hired their own grader, roller and water truck and are now subcontracting to the council. Alongside RoadTek, they are working on stage 4 of upgrading the Endeavour Valley Road. As the sealing continues across the cape so, too, do the tourism, job and economic opportunities in this unique part of our state.