



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Bailey**


**MEMBER FOR YEERONGPILLY**

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Record of Proceedings, 9 November 2016

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**

### **Emergency Vehicle Priority Program**

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (2.28 pm): In Toowoomba, emergency service vehicles will reach their destinations faster thanks to award-winning traffic technology switched on by the Palaszczuk government this month. The emergency vehicle priority or EVP system is innovative technology that gives fire trucks and ambulances green-light priority when responding to emergencies. The time it could save ambulance or firefighting vehicles arriving at the scene of an emergency and to their later destination, such as a hospital, could be the difference between life and death. The emergency vehicle priority system provides a green light signal for approaching emergency vehicles fitted with the technology when safe to do so. The Department of Transport and Main Roads has been working with the Queensland Ambulance Service and Queensland Fire and Emergency Services to have Toowoomba up and running with this internationally award-winning technology. Currently across Toowoomba there are 28 intersections and 35 Ambulance Service vehicles equipped and running with emergency vehicle priority technology. My department is working on having fire and emergency service vehicles fitted out and operational in coming weeks.

My department has already seen great results in other areas in Queensland where it has been rolled out previously. For example, the independent Australian Road Research Board determined that emergency vehicle priority equipped vehicles on the Gold Coast are showing travel time reductions of up to 26 per cent. The rollout of EVP in Toowoomba has been carried out in conjunction with emergency services to determine the routes and locations where emergency vehicles would have greatest benefit.

Last month the member for Mackay and I announced the rollout of EVP technology at the North Mackay Ambulance Station, following the Palaszczuk government's Whitsundays community cabinet. As well as Mackay and Toowoomba, this year my department activated over 300 sites to the systems already running in South-East Queensland, Townsville and Bundaberg. Cairns, Hervey Bay, Maryborough, Rockhampton and Gladstone are next in line as part of the Palaszczuk government's \$13.5 million investment in this technology. Across Queensland there are over 1,550 intersections, 346 ambulances and 70 fire trucks available for use with emergency vehicle priority.

This Transport and Main Roads developed technology has won several awards, including in October 2015 at the International ITS Congress held in Bordeaux, France, where the EVP system won the Hall of Fame award in the local government category. Locally this system has been recognised at the 2016 Australian Road Safety Awards, picking up the State Government Initiatives Award and the Founder's Award for Outstanding Achievement. This is just another example of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to using smart technology to improve our road network to help save lives.