



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Bailey**


**MEMBER FOR YEERONGPILLY**

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Record of Proceedings, 1 December 2016

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Department of Transport and Main Roads, Achievements**

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (10.40 am): I would like to thank the hardworking staff at Transport and Main Roads for all of their work this year rolling out vital road infrastructure projects and jobs for Queensland. The Palaszczuk government is investing a record funding amount in infrastructure projects via our QTRIP program worth more than \$20 billion over the next four years. This is creating jobs, jobs and jobs for the construction industry and support sectors, particularly in our regional centres. We have continued delivery of the Accelerated Works Program through 21 infrastructure projects worth \$144 million and 400 jobs for regional Queenslanders. Five projects have been completed and 13 are under construction.

We have continued delivery of the Gateway upgrade north project; the Peninsula Development Road; the Townsville ring-road; the \$160 million Gold Coast Commonwealth Games package; and Bruce Highway packages all the way up the coast. Construction has commenced on the \$34 million duplication of the Bill Fulton Bridge, achieved by the member for Barron River; the 41-kilometre Toowoomba Second Range Crossing; the Peak Downs Highway Eton Range realignment in the member for Mirani's area; the \$57 million Sandy Gully Bridge upgrade north of Bowen; the Bruce Highway Cooroy to Curra section C, worth \$384 million; and the \$22 million upgrade of Kawana Way in preparation for the hospital. We have also completed the Yellow Gin Creek upgrade; the Flinders Highway upgrade between Hughenden and Cloncurry; the Toowoomba to Oakey Warrego Highway stage 1 duplication, worth \$110 million; and we have almost completed the exit 54 Coomera interchange upgrade, which just did not get done under the Newman government.

We have announced the contract awarded for the \$929 million Bruce Highway upgrade at Caloundra Road and the Sunshine Motorway, saving Beerwah State Forest and maintaining Aussie World access. The list goes on: the Mackay ring-road, the Ipswich Motorway, Riverway Drive at Townsville and the Urraween Drive and Maryborough-Hervey Bay Road intersection at Hervey Bay. This means jobs, jobs, jobs right across Queensland. We are also maintaining our commitment to local government in our fifty-fifty TIDS program over the next three years, giving local government certainty.

I have more good news for the House. On the energy side of my portfolio, the electricity disconnections I am pleased to report have reduced significantly over the last 12 months, with the latest Australian Energy Regulator's report showing that there were 37 per cent fewer Queensland households disconnected due to electricity debt in 2015-16 compared to the previous financial year. That means 8,000 fewer disconnections because our policy to stabilise electricity prices and give people relief is coming into effect. This is a very pleasing outcome.

In 2014-15, we saw disconnections hit a record 29,692 after three years of 43 per cent price increases under the Newman government, of which the opposition leader was the treasurer. Since our election, the Palaszczuk government has taken action. Consequently, the disconnections have fallen to their lowest level since 2012-13. We are keeping our promises, delivering better electricity outcomes for Queenslanders and fixing up the mess left by the opposition leader when he was treasurer.