



Speech By  
**Craig Crawford**


**MEMBER FOR BARRON RIVER**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (7.06 pm): As today is the second anniversary of the commencement of the Palaszczuk Labor government, I want to take time to revisit the last two years in my electorate, the challenges ahead and the achievements to date. The Cairns economy has surged in the last two years with a massive growth in domestic and international tourism numbers. This has reignited investor confidence in our region. Whether it is airline investment in new routes to new international destinations, new hotel construction and hotel refurbishments, the Cairns Aquarium construction due to open this year, packed hotels, packed reef boats or packed tour buses, confidence breeds confidence and it becomes infectious.

Our government has recognised the city's desire to host larger cruise ships. We know the outlook for cruise ship numbers is rapidly on the rise and we have found a logical way forward with respect to how we increase the channel size at Cairns and how we meet our Reef 2050 commitments to not only avoid damaging our most valued asset, the Great Barrier Reef, but also to continue to sustain a billion dollar industry. The Sustainable Ports Development Bill allowed for the Trinity Inlet development to stay alive, and I know that Ports North are working hard on a proposal to get underway with the works that are required to achieve that. Our roads in Barron River are struggling. They have been struggling for over 10 years now. It is certainly starting to get to crunch point in some locations. We have no federal funding in my patch; it is 100 per cent state funded. However, I am pleased to have a good team of cabinet ministers who understand, who listen and who act accordingly.

Late last week I briefed the Premier in Cairns over plans and proposals for some projects in my electorate. I want to thank the Minister for Main Roads as well for the work that his team has done, particularly the TMR team at Cairns under the guidance of Sandra Burke. We have unplugged the No. 1 road issue facing both sides of politics in Barron River and particularly at the 2015 election, the Bill Fulton Bridge duplication. Despite the LNP saying the project was always going to happen, it was a Labor government who found the planning money, a Labor government who found the construction money and a Labor government who got the project started. Currently, it is halfway through. It is sparking much excitement and conversation amongst motorists, who are pleased to see progress.

The second point of angst amongst motorists is a blockage point near the Caravonica State School due to the lack of a car park and the dangerous parking practices and pedestrian crossings. Traffic backs up for kilometres in both directions. Through the education minister, as well as working with council and local developers, we managed to find a way through and construction will start very shortly.

Sometimes it is the little things that we remember as a local member. I speak of little things such as the issue a good friend of mine, Bob, was having. I intervened because Ergon was going to take away his 44 cent feed-in tariff because his wife died. It is little things like that that keep us going. I look forward to the next election: two years down, one to go.