



Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR YEERONGPILLY

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Budget, Road and Transport Infrastructure

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (3.14 pm): The Palaszczuk government is delivering a record spend—\$21 billion of investment over the next four years on our road and transport infrastructure for the second year in a row through our QTRIP program. This means an estimated 16,950 direct jobs will be supported over the next four years, which is great news for Queenslanders, great news for the regions and great news for our economy. Some \$16½ billion of this is specifically allocated to roads and maritime infrastructure across Queensland, and in 2017-18 this includes \$400 million to rebuild our damaged road networks across Queensland damaged by Cyclone Debbie and associated flooding.

The Palaszczuk government knows investing in infrastructure is fundamental to delivering local jobs and ensuring economic growth. Through QTRIP, we are funding many key projects that will keep our economy moving. We are delivering the \$400 million Ipswich Motorway stage 1 upgrade from Rocklea to Darra—a project ignored for three years by the previous government. We are also delivering two M1 upgrades, one at the merge with the Gateway and the other between Varsity Lakes and Mudgeeraba—again, inaction under the previous government. On top of the M1 capital allocations, we are also investing \$5 million to progress the planning and business case development to six-lane the next highest priority section of the M1 at the southern end from Varsity Lakes to Tugun—acting again after three years of inaction by the previous government.

There is \$1.1 billion for the Gateway Arterial upgrade north project and \$929 million for the Bruce Highway's Caloundra Road to Sunshine Motorway interchange upgrade, which has just started. We have also put our 20 per cent on the table for the Bruce Highway's Pine Rivers to Caloundra upgrade, and that interchange only recently commenced construction. There is \$1.6 billion for the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing project to continue. I look forward, as I know the member for Mackay looks forward, to the commencement this year of the Mackay Ring Road worth \$497 million of expenditure, including the Walkerston bypass—something many people had promised but we are delivering. I know the member for Logan is ecstatic about the upgrade to the Mount Lindesay Highway between Browns Plains and Beaudesert Key, and that is on top of the \$20 million allocation in joint funding for the North Maclean sections as well. Congratulations to him for his strong advocacy.

Through the Northern Australia Roads Programme and the Northern Australia Beef Roads Programme we are also delivering high-priority projects to support economic development in North Queensland and Central Queensland. There is the \$75 million duplication of the Capricorn Highway between Rockhampton and Gracemere and the \$30 million Rockhampton road train access project, and great credit goes to the members for Rockhampton and Keppel for that. There is also the \$15 million project to upgrade culverts on the Flinders Highway between Charters Towers and Hughenden, and I am sure that the member for Dalrymple will welcome that.

In addition, we are also investing \$530 million in targeted road safety initiatives. We are continuing to partner with local governments that need the confidence to plan infrastructure and sustain local employment, with \$70 million committed to the TIDS program—a program that was cut severely by the previous government under the member for Clayfield as treasurer. We are continuing a number of projects including a new program worth over \$10 million for transport and tourism connection programs that allow local governments to access shared funding to improve approaches to our tourist sites and our culturally significant sites, and I know the mayor of Winton is a beneficiary for the dinosaur centre. There is more than \$150 million for marine infrastructure over four years. The Palaszczuk government is continuing our record investment, building our roads network, boosting productivity—

Mr SPEAKER: One moment, Minister. I counsel the member for Whitsunday, the Minister for Education and the Deputy Premier. If you persist, I will take the appropriate action.

Mr BAILEY: We are creating jobs and fostering economic growth.