




Speech By  
**Hon. Dr Steven Miles**  
**MEMBER FOR MOUNT COOT-THA**

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**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL:  
PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES COMMITTEE**

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef) (10.42 pm): I begin by acknowledging the work of the committee during this year's estimates and in particular acknowledge the work of its chair, the member for Kallangur, who has been a tireless advocate for transport investment not just in his own Moreton Bay Regional Council area but in fact in locations right across the state. I wish to thank all committee members for the spirited and at times robust debate on the day.

Make no mistake: the Palaszczuk government is yet again delivering a record spend on road and transport infrastructure. QTRIP, our investment pipeline, outlines a four-year schedule of transport and road infrastructure investment worth approximately \$21 billion and supporting an estimated 16,950 direct jobs—\$16.5 billion of this is specifically allocated to roads and maritime infrastructure across Queensland. In 2017-18, this includes \$400 million to rebuild impacted roads across the state damaged by Cyclone Debbie and associated flooding.

QTRIP is a four-year program. The reason we have a four-year program of works is that spending on specific projects changes from year to year as projects progress. The value of the capital program varies from year to year in accordance with program and project cash flow requirements which are dependent on a number of factors, such as the phase of project delivery and general economic environment.

At present, for example, current market conditions are reasonably competitive, with generally lower tender prices for works to be delivered. This is allowing us to deliver better value for Queensland. With this in mind, TMR has developed an achievable capital program for 2017-18 that reflects market conditions. The LNP made some clearly inaccurate and disputed claims that the Palaszczuk government is cutting roads funding. These claims are incorrect. The Newman-Nicholls LNP government in fact slashed roads funding by a massive \$600 million during their three years in government.

In addition to cutting this much needed roads funding, the previous LNP government, when the member for Clayfield was treasurer, wasted more than \$100 million preparing for privatisation and on their Strong Choices propaganda. Of that, \$30 million was diverted from the roads and transport budget to bankroll their bid to sell Queensland's assets and outsource services—all without asking the people of Queensland for a mandate. They have failed to articulate which projects they will cut as a result of their vehicle registration policies. The LNP needs to come clean on the black hole of almost \$300 million their policies will create.

We have put forward a program of works that reflects a number of key economic factors, including our natural disaster recovery works and a softening in construction costs. We are delivering a four-year program that is higher than any QTRIP delivered by those opposite. We are also getting on with the job of delivering projects that are jointly funded with the Commonwealth and have struck a \$500 million deal for the two M1 upgrades—the Mount Lindesay Highway upgrades and the Walkerston bypass.

We are repairing the damage done by the LNP, including thousands of jobs cut in the Department of Transport and Main Roads under Tim Nicholls—a shocking 22.4 per cent reduction in overall staff. We are getting on with the job of building our roads network, boosting productivity, future proofing the state, creating jobs and fostering economic growth.

The Palaszczuk government knows investing in infrastructure is fundamental to delivering local jobs and ensuring economic growth. Through QTRIP we are funding key projects that will keep our economy moving. The Bruce Highway continues to be a key priority for the Palaszczuk government. We are committed to continuously improving road safety, flood immunity and capacity through projects such as the \$929.3 million Caloundra Road to Sunshine Motorway upgrade. Bruce Highway upgrades across the life of the forward estimates are worth \$5.59 billion in joint funding, with \$510.5 million allocated for 2017-18 and supporting 2,394 direct jobs.

There is also the \$497.8 million for the Mackay ring-road and construction of the Walkerston bypass, and of course preparation is well underway for the Commonwealth Games. This financial year we will complete the \$160 million package of works. Unlike the LNP, we do not see cycling as gold plating. We have committed over \$182 million over the forwards for high-priority cycling projects. Across Queensland we are delivering projects, building infrastructure and supporting jobs in local communities.