




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

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ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (6.49 pm): It is a great honour to be a member of this parliament and to have the faith of the people at an election. That is something that all of us should cherish every day that we are in this job. It is something that I cherish. I thank the electors of Miller for putting their faith in me this term. I give you my absolute commitment that I will give this job and am giving this job 100 per cent.

I am honoured to be the first member for Miller. It is a new seat after the redistribution. I represented Yeerongpilly in the previous term. I followed on from very eminent members Matt Foley and Simon Finn. I acknowledge my predecessor Carl Judge who was a very decent person and did his best. The seat is named after Emma Miller—a suffragette who was a fierce fighter for equal rights for women. I am very proud to be in a government that has virtually equal numbers of women both in caucus and in cabinet. I think Emma Miller would look at this government with a lot of pride not just in its make-up but also in its achievements in terms of its fight for equal rights in our community in Queensland.

Why have we been re-elected? I think we have been re-elected because we have been a good government, kept our election promises and kept the faith of Queenslanders. We have had the strongest employment growth in the country over the last 12 months. Over 160,000 jobs have been created. Confidence is coming back after strong, steady leadership from this government. That is after an 11-year high unemployment rate under the previous government. Growth in Queensland was down to 0.8 per cent under the previous government but has returned to consistently healthy figures under the Palaszczuk Labor government.

One thing this government always does is treat Queenslanders with respect. We present them with proper arguments. We give them the information they need. We are not an arrogant government. We will continue that approach. That is obviously why the people had faith in us at the last election. One of the reasons we were re-elected is that, with five million Queenslanders now, growth has returned to this state post the global financial crisis and we need infrastructure. In my portfolio, which is an important economic portfolio, getting infrastructure right is critical to the rest of the economy.

Over the last 3½ years we have seen funding for four M1 upgrades. We have seen the Gateway Arterial North project started and almost completed. We have seen the Bruce Highway project continue. The upgrade at Caloundra Road and the Sunshine Motorway—the big growth area on the Sunshine Coast—is underway. It has been done environmentally sensitively whilst looking after local business. In terms of Riverway Drive in Townsville—I am sorry to see the member for Thuringowa is not here; he has missed his opportunity—the member has been a great advocate. That is a great project nearing completion.

There is funding for the Mackay Ring Road. Mount Lindesay Highway is finally getting funds because of the work of the member for Logan. There was nothing under the previous government. The Smithfield bypass is at the design stage because the member for Barron River stood up and delivered for his electorate. That is a very popular project.

Construction of the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing started under our government. There is work being done on the Ipswich Motorway. Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 2 has been enormous. We saw the duplication of the Coomera to Helensvale rail line in time for the Commonwealth Games. There were \$330 million worth of road upgrades on the Gold Coast.

We have seen cycling infrastructure prioritised again. That is an important part of a balanced transport network. We have seen fifty-fifty programs with local governments. We get so much done across Queensland under that program. Hundreds of cycleways have been built. That means getting traffic off our roads and a healthier community. It is not gold plating as the previous LNP minister said. It is an essential part of a balanced transport network. In Brisbane where we have separated cycleways, people switch modes and we have more capacity on the road network.

We have the longest electric vehicle superhighway in one state anywhere in the world under the Palaszczuk Labor government. We have also seen the Cross River Rail project under the Deputy Premier's leadership really ramp up this year. That will be a transformative project. Not just public transport but the whole transport network in South-East Queensland depends on that project. It is a project that is opposed by the LNP to this day. They do not understand transport and transport infrastructure.

The E10 OK campaign is creating a biofuels industry in Queensland. We have seen huge increases in the use of E10. We are expanding that base to develop that industry. That campaign is something I am very proud of as the former minister. It is a very successful campaign. We have seen usage not far off doubling under this government as access has improved and people's understanding of it has improved because of that education campaign.

As the energy minister in our first term of government, I am very proud of the renewable energy boom that has occurred under this government. Not a single large scale renewable project was started under the previous government. It is an astonishing thing at a time of worldwide energy transformation. I coined the phrase 'turning the sunshine state into the solar state'. That is what we are doing. There are 24-plus projects underway. The 50 per cent renewable target is driving that. We will hit a 21 per cent renewable energy mix next year under this government which is acting on climate change, acting on jobs, acting on the technical change that is a reality. That is something those opposite need to get their heads around.

We launched the Powering Queensland Plan to increase security across the national energy market after the South Australian blackout caused by a once-in-50-year storm took out their transmission towers. We have started CleanCo, a renewable energy generator that diversifies the number of publicly owned generators but also drives more renewable investment in this state.

After the 43 per cent increases in power prices under the LNP we are starting to see power prices come down. Part of our Powering Queensland Plan that I launched in June last year was the \$770 million commitment to cover the solar bonus cost. Again, we are thinking about consumers and backing them in as a government. We directed Stanwell to maximise volume to help price. We established the Queensland Energy Security Taskforce to help with energy security.

This is probably the first proper opportunity I have had to pay tribute to Terry Effenev, a great energy industry leader, who died earlier this year all too early. It is a real tragedy. He is someone who had incredible respect right across all groups in the energy sector and in politics. He is a great loss to this state. It was an honour to work with him. He contributed so much to Queensland.

We fired up Swanbank E gas generator, mothballed under the Newman government, increasing energy security and increasing the diversity of energy sources in Queensland. We also launched the Powering North Queensland Plan. We are coordinating all the renewable projects happening in North Queensland into a renewable energy hub. We had Sun Metals solar farm start. This is a solar farm powering a zinc refinery manufacturing plant without batteries. There are 330 sunny days a year. A third of the power for industrial production is coming from the solar farm. Get your heads around that if you still have concerns about renewables. That is a fantastic project.

The Powering North Queensland Plan brings together a range of those projects, like Kidston stage 1 and stage 2 and solar plus peak hydro. At the Kennedy Energy Park there is night wind, day solar and a battery combination. At Forsyth there is the Infigen wind farm. We are bringing transmission together and bringing in the renewable energy boom that is happening not just in Queensland but in North Queensland.

Queensland has been leading, and continues to lead, energy policy in this country. In my time as energy minister and now Dr Lynham as energy minister, we have had three prime ministers, we have had three energy ministers and we have had no energy policy whatsoever from them. It is left to the

states like Queensland and Victoria who understand the new energy market to lead the way. All we get from Canberra is division, dysfunction and chaos, and we are getting more and more of it as more and more leaks happen.

We have seen prices start to fall in Queensland for the first time in quite some time. Last year we had a modest increase of about three per cent, while other states that have privatised power were looking at 19 per cent increases. What is the key to that? The key to good energy policy is to keep power assets in public hands. You can only trust Labor with that in Queensland—and that is what we are doing.

There are other reasons, I believe, why this government has a second term. We are in tune with the electorate on social reform. It is 2018, people. Listen up! People are wanting the governments to reflect their social values, and this government did so. We acted on domestic violence. We saved Minjerribah, or North Stradbroke Island, from sandmining, and that will phase out next year. We understand how important that environmental jewel is. We dealt with the age of consent discrepancy for the LGBTIQ community.

Debate, on motion of Mr Bailey, adjourned.