




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Warrego Highway, Upgrade

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.57 am): The \$635 million Warrego Highway Upgrade Program is made up of 15 projects from west of Toowoomba to the west of Miles. These projects are designed to improve safety and freight movement and are scheduled to be delivered by the middle of 2019.

I am very pleased to announce today that approval was recently given to upgrade three additional sections of the Warrego Highway between Oakey and Miles, bringing the total number of Warrego Highway Upgrade Program projects to 18. The additional three projects will use savings from seven of the projects that have already been completed. These savings were gained through a robust tender process and a highly competitive civil construction market under the Palaszczuk Labor government. These additional upgrades will improve safety and reduce travel time for people who rely on this key Queensland highway to access our largest inland city and further west.

Tenders have been called for the three projects and will close early next month. One of the savings projects, the Dalby to Miles pavement widening and safety upgrade, will widen and repair key sections of the highway to install wide centre line treatments and flatten slopes off the road edges. Under the Oakey to Miles safety upgrade stage 2, the second project, stopping bays will be installed to allow heavy vehicle operators to pull off the highway safely, check loads, change tyres or rest. The bays will also provide the drivers of smaller vehicles with the opportunity to take a break and avoid fatigue.

The third savings project—the Carroll Creek culvert replacement project—is located about 65 kilometres east of Roma and will deliver new culverts across Carroll Creek near Yuleba. This reinvestment of savings will particularly benefit heavy vehicle operators servicing agricultural and resource industries across the Darling Downs and south-west Queensland.

After 13 months of construction, the Dalby eastern and Dalby western access upgrades are nearing completion. With a predicted end date of November this year, this highway upgrade to four lanes through Dalby will create safer vehicle movement through the town. Thanks to dedicated right-turn lanes at the main intersections, these works will mean safety is improved for the more than 7,000 vehicles travelling through Dalby each day.

There are also many other sections of the Warrego now being upgraded. Construction continues on the seven overtaking lanes at four locations between Dalby and Miles and is due to be completed early next year. Intersection upgrades and highway widening between Oakey and Miles are expected to be completed by the end of next month. The upgrade of the Warrego Highway and the Leichhardt Highway intersections through Miles is underway and on track for completion in November. Tenders for the Chinchilla open level crossing upgrade project are being assessed and construction is expected to commence later this year.

The Palaszczuk Labor government is proud to be playing its part in transforming the Warrego Highway for the people who live in the agricultural and mining hubs of the Western Downs.