




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Riverway Drive Duplication Project

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.09 am): Today I am pleased to announce the completion of the congestion-busting Riverway Drive duplication project in Townsville.

Mr Harper interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, member for Thuringowa!

Mr BAILEY: The member for Thuringowa may need a sedative. Over the past 18 months work has been underway on this major upgrade to help deliver a safer and more reliable road network for the Upper Ross. The Upper Ross area of Townsville is experiencing strong residential growth, and Riverway Drive is the key road link that connects the Upper Ross to other parts of Townsville and the CBD via the Townsville Ring Road. This \$43.5 million upgrade of Riverway Drive was fully funded by the Palaszczuk Labor government under the State Infrastructure Plan. It has delivered real benefits for the 20,000-plus motorists who travel this section of road every day and sparked new commercial investment along its route, creating even more North Queensland jobs.

The project was completed late last month and, as this House well knows, the member for Thuringowa has championed this project for his community since day one. 'Riverway Drive' is his middle name! Thanks to his leadership and support, the Riverway Drive project has delivered dual traffic lanes in each direction along a three-kilometre section between Gollogly Lane and Allambie Lane—often promised, but delivered by this government. The project also features: new and upgraded signalised intersections, including at Santal Drive; new centre medians; protected turning lanes; pedestrian crossings and refuges; new bus stops and shelters; streetlight upgrades; and new stormwater pipes along the entire length of the project.

I thank motorists, residents and the community of Townsville for their patience during construction. Traffic flow was sustained and access to more than 180 businesses and residential properties was preserved during the 18 months of construction. It provided valuable local employment and contracting opportunities, supporting 82 North Queensland jobs. Pedestrians and cyclists will also see further benefits along Riverway Drive by the end of this year when we start replacing sections of the older footpath with a new 2.5-metre-wide shared concrete footpath. The completion of these works is the Palaszczuk government's and member for Thuringowa's Christmas present for Upper Ross motorists. Merry Riverway Drive Christmas, Mr Speaker!

I have more good news for Townsville. The Palaszczuk government has started planning for a further duplication of Riverway Drive. Our next project will focus on the stretch between Allambie Lane and Dunlop Street. A business case for the duplication of this section is now underway. The business case will give us an indication of the costs involved in continuing to deliver projects and make sure that local investment keeps pace with population growth in North Queensland.