




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 27 February 2019

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Lindum Railway Crossing, Death; Road Safety

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.56 am): On behalf of the House I wish to express our sincere condolences to the family and friends of the woman who tragically lost her life at the Lindum rail crossing last night. Our thoughts are also with the Queensland Rail staff and members of the public who witnessed this upsetting event. The circumstances of this incident are being investigated by the Queensland Police Service's Forensic Crash Unit, and a separate investigation into what has occurred is also being carried out by Queensland Rail.

When the Palaszczuk government launched Queensland's road safety strategy in 2015 we committed to reducing trauma by 30 per cent. We are currently working towards this vision through our Road Safety Action Plan. Sadly, in 2018, 245 people were killed on Queensland's roads. Every death is a tragedy and a priority is to invest in clearly targeted infrastructure initiatives that make Queensland's roads safer for everyone. My department has identified 26 sections of state controlled road network, each about 20 kilometres in length, as high risk. While representing only 1.4 per cent of Queensland's state controlled road network, these roads account for 10 per cent of the state's fatal and serious injury crashes.

The Palaszczuk Labor government has already funded \$140 million worth of safety improvements on 11 of these high-risk roads. Today I am very pleased to inform the House that we have approved an additional \$112 million over three years for safety upgrades on a further nine high-risk roads. This funding will create 91 mainly regional jobs for Queenslanders. In Far North Queensland, \$18 million will be invested to make the Gillies Range Road safer, while the Captain Cook Highway will receive \$2.4 million for intersection upgrades and speed reductions near Mossman.

Some \$43 million has been allocated to upgrade intersections and install wide centre line treatments, safety barriers and tactile line marking on the Kennedy Highway between Cairns and Mareeba; \$19 million will deliver right-turning lanes, road widening, wide centre lines and tactile line marking on the New England Highway between Warwick and Wallangarra; and \$14 million will be invested in intersection upgrades, safety barriers and other works on the Mount Lindesay Highway on top of the \$100 million the Palaszczuk Labor government has committed to since 2015. A \$2.3 million upgrade of Mount Cotton Road at the German Church Road and Coorang Road intersections will start this year and upgrades will also be delivered to the Bundaberg Gin Gin Road, Rockhampton-Yeppoon Road and East Street and Fitzroy Street in Rockhampton. These major upgrades are supported with a further \$40 million in funding for 71 smaller—but important ones—safety upgrades across Queensland over the next three years, including 17 specific projects to improve cyclist and pedestrian safety. These projects will create jobs and make a real difference to the safety of Queenslanders who drive, ride or cross these roads every day.