




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Bruce Highway Upgrade Program

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.12 am): The Palaszczuk government is delivering a record \$45.8 billion over the next four years in infrastructure for Queenslanders. This includes record investments for the Bruce Highway. From Cairns to Brisbane, the Bruce Highway connects Queenslanders and visitors, and drives our economy.

We are delivering the \$1 billion Cooroy to Curra section D, building the Gympie bypass between Woondum and Curra; the \$481 million Cairns southern access corridor stage 3, between Edmonton and Gordonvale; and the \$187 million Maroochydore Road interchange. On Sunday, the first of 49, 65-tonne girders were lifted into place on the Sunshine Coast for Australia's first diverging diamond interchange. These girders are part of an \$812 million Bruce Highway upgrade from Caloundra Road to the Sunshine Motorway. This upgrade will improve travel times for the 63,000, and growing, daily vehicles that use it each day, while also preserving more than 700-plus hectares of land as dedicated national park and creating 680 jobs on the Sunshine Coast.

Earlier this month, I joined the Premier to inspect progress on the interchange and open the new exit 190. Locals asked us to save exit 190 as part of the upgrade, and we have made sure that they continue to have access to the retail precinct and to the Palmview and Glenview communities nearby.

Further north in Sarina we have started construction on the \$14.36 million upgrade of the Bruce Highway roundabout. In Rockhampton we are getting stuck into the next section of the \$157 million northern access upgrade, building two new northbound bridges for the growing region, which I visited a few weeks ago with the member for Rockhampton. These upgrades mean jobs. The Sarina works have been awarded to a local Mackay business. For stage 1 of the Mackay ring-road, over 1,000 employees have been inducted on site—80 per cent of them local. While in Rockhampton, our northern access upgrades will support more than 420 jobs.

The Palaszczuk government is also investing \$10 million over two years to the Bruce Highway Trust for a 15-year vision and rolling five-year action plans. We will also be providing \$200 million each year upon completion of the existing Bruce Highway Upgrade Program. The Palaszczuk government is delivering record infrastructure investments in the Bruce Highway to respond to growth and safety and build for the future.