




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Federal Budget, Bruce Highway

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.07 am): There is no road more synonymous with Queensland than the mighty Bruce Highway. From Cairns to Brisbane, the Bruce connects Queenslanders and tourists and it drives our economy. That is why the Palaszczuk government, as part of its unprecedented \$45.8 billion, four-year infrastructure program, is delivering record investments for the Bruce. Let's load up the electric vehicle, because it also doubles as the electric vehicle super highway, the longest electric vehicle super highway in one state in the world. Let's have a go. We are delivering from the far north to the south-east on the Bruce Highway.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members.

Mr BAILEY: The first stop is Cairns, where the Palaszczuk government is planning the \$481 million Cairns Southern Access Corridor from Gordonvale to Edmonton, which I am sure you would be familiar with and be very supportive of, Mr Speaker—stage 3—and building the \$104 million Kate Street to Aumuller Street upgrade after completing the Robert Road to Foster Road upgrade recently.

The next stop we go to is Townsville, the home of the mighty Cowboys, the home of our new stadium we are building there and also stage 5 of the region's ring-road. After putting up our fair share for Townsville Ring Road stage 5 in last year's budget, the federal government have finally, after a whole year of dithering, stumped up their investment to match our investment to get this important project for Townsville going. Unfortunately, in Tuesday's federal budget we saw no additional dollars for the Bruce Highway program from the federal government.

Stage 5 is the missing link for Townsville that will ensure the entire 36-kilometre stretch of the Bruce Highway through Townsville will be at a four-lane standard. We cannot stop there, so let's get along to Mackay, where the Palaszczuk government has invested \$99 million to build stage 1 of the city's ring-road. This is a massive project for Mackay locals, with more than 1,000 workers inducted, 80 per cent of whom are local.

When we get to Central Queensland we see the Rockhampton Ring Road. In Rockhampton, the beef capital, we have committed \$200 million. Planning is now underway to build an upgrade of the Bruce Highway for the region's thriving freight and agriculture industry. This follows the commencement of work on the \$157 million Rockhampton northern access upgrade. We have also done significant section upgrades south of Maryborough such as the Tinana interchange. As we close in on the south-east we stop at Curra, where the Palaszczuk government is investing \$200 million into the Cooroy to Curra section D Bruce Highway upgrade, building the Gympie bypass between Woondum and Curra.

Finally, we come to the booming Sunshine Coast, which was ignored by the previous government. Forty-nine girders are being lifted into place in Australia's first ever diverging diamond interchange, designed and delivered by Labor. As part of that \$812 million upgrade of the Bruce

Highway from the Sunshine Motorway to Caloundra Road, the Palaszczuk government is delivering. This upgrade will improve travel times and reduce congestion for the 63,000 vehicles that travel on the road daily, while preserving 700 hectares of local forest as dedicated national park.

It has always been a long drive on the Bruce Highway, but it is not over yet. The Bruce Highway is critical to our state, and that is why we are looking to the long term. We have a plan. The Palaszczuk government plans to see an investment of a billion dollars in joint funding for the Bruce Highway via a Bruce Highway trust. We are still waiting for the federal government—still waiting for the federal government—

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr BAILEY:—after the budget to make their commitment to match our commitment to the Bruce Highway, because we invest in it and so should the federal government.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Chatsworth, can I check that you did not use unparliamentary language during the interjection?

Mr MINNIKIN: I withdraw, Mr Speaker.