




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 14 May 2019

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Ports

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.59 am): The Palaszczuk government is investing in Queensland's ports to create jobs, drive tourism and boost trade. We have kept Queensland's ports in public hands and the Palaszczuk Labor government will invest \$180 million this financial year in our ports.

I visited Cairns last week to inspect progress on the construction of a temporary pipeline for the \$127 million Cairns Shipping Development Project. This eight-kilometre pipeline will ensure an environmentally sustainable outcome, with dredging material to be pumped to the Northern Sands deposit site just off the Captain Cook Highway to be re-used instead of being dumped on the Great Barrier Reef. Widening and deepening the Cairns port channel will allow larger cruise ships to berth at Cairns and support the future expansion of HMAS *Cairns* base. This will grow the number of cruise ships visiting the port annually from 100 to 150 by 2031. The project will create up to 800 construction jobs over five years and up to 2,700 jobs after construction in Far North Queensland. Dredging is on target to start in July this year, with the project set to finish next year.

Townsville's economy will also be transformed by the \$193 million Townsville Channel Upgrade Project. We are widening the shipping channel to accommodate ships up to 300 metres long and expanding the port by 62 hectares—the largest expansion of Townsville port in its history. The project will create 120 North Queensland construction jobs and support 245 full-time jobs.

The Palaszczuk Labor government's record \$21 billion investment in Queensland infrastructure over four years is supporting these port projects as key parts of our supply chain, while ensuring their operations meet global environmental standards to protect the Great Barrier Reef.

I acknowledge recent media reports about a consultant subcontracting at the Port of Gladstone. The Gladstone Ports Corporation did not sack or suspend this consultant. I am advised that his employer, Welcon Technologies, directed him to other work after the port corporation raised concerns about his conduct on-site during a media visit. The port corporation temporarily suspended a contract with the company while the matter was investigated. The contract with Welcon was reinstated and port work is available for the consultant. However, this should never have happened. Let me be clear: any person should be free to approach elected officials or candidates and have an honest conversation—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my left!

Mr Pegg interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Who was that member?

Mr Pegg interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Stretton, you are warned under the standing orders. I had called the House to order.

Mr BAILEY: Let me be clear: any person should be free to approach elected officials or candidates and have an honest conversation about their policies. I have made my views about this clear to Gladstone Ports Corporation, which, as a publicly owned corporation, must uphold those values.