




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Budget, Infrastructure

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.56 am): People are turning up for work today on construction sites across regional Queensland because of the Palaszczuk Labor government's infrastructure investment. In this year's budget we have again delivered a record infrastructure program—our fourth in five years; \$23 billion over four years to create more than 21½ thousand jobs across Queensland. The majority of that record investment will support regional Queensland. That investment will support more than 13½ thousand regional Queensland jobs. We are making sure there is a pipeline of work for Queenslanders and their employers well into the next decade.

Last month I joined the Member for Cook to inspect progress on sealing the Peninsula Developmental Road. That transformative project is opening up access to Cape York communities, improving road safety, unlocking new opportunities to expand tourism and growing their economies. There is a commitment of another \$15 million in this year's state budget. Roadworks on the cape are also an important local employer, providing jobs and training for Indigenous workers. I spoke with crews on that trip that were glad to know that our investment would guarantee them work for many years to come.

People living in regional Queensland spend more time in their cars travelling and this budget will pour funding into road upgrades to make their drive safer. Queensland's major coastal arterial road, the Bruce Highway, will continue to be made safer between Brisbane and Cairns, thanks to a jointly funded \$12.6 billion rolling upgrade plan. We are also progressing the Bruce Highway Trust to lock in \$1 billion worth of joint funding annually to guarantee upgrades into the future.

Our road safety budget has also been boosted by \$205 million over the next four years, with more than \$900 million to fix dangerous roads and create overtaking lanes.

Mrs Wilson interjected.

Mr BAILEY: Those opposite may not want to hear about regional Queensland, but I will proceed.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members. The member for Pumicestone will cease interjecting.

Mr BAILEY: In Rockhampton we have backed the \$1 billion ring-road project and are full steam ahead with the Rockhampton Northern Access Upgrade—a \$121 million project supporting more than 400 jobs, which I was very happy to visit with the member for Rockhampton recently. Ring-roads in Townsville, Mackay, Cairns and the Gympie bypass created by the Cooroy to Curra stage D upgrade will take traffic, particularly trucks, off local roads and increase our freight productivity. A range of road projects in Maryborough will be warmly welcomed by local residents. Warrego Highway safety upgrades west of Toowoomba will continue. We will work with the Commonwealth to deliver improvements east of Toowoomba.

We also know how important the north-west minerals province is for the economy of North Queensland and the north-west. That is why we have a \$500 million plan to boost mineral freight on the Mount Isa to Townsville line, which we recently restored in 12 weeks, including a reduction in access charges and a new freight facility at the port of Townsville—a port that is still publicly owned under this government, and it will continue to be publicly owned. It will not be sold off like those opposite would like to see happen. This year's budget continues our focus on investing in job-creating projects in regional Queensland because this is a budget for all Queenslanders.