




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Transport Infrastructure, Jobs

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.08 am): At the 2015 and 2017 elections, Queenslanders made it clear that they want jobs and they want roads, rail and better transport, and Labor is delivering. After blazing the trail over the last four years, the Palaszczuk Labor government has handed down a record \$23 billion roads and transport budget—our fourth in five years. Our four-year plan will create 21,500 jobs for Queenslanders with a pipeline of projects to make sure we keep our pedal to the metal as Queensland moves from strength to strength.

Whether it is Cairns, Townsville, Rocky, Maryborough or our communities out west, there are thousands of Queenslanders right now turning up to job sites building roads and transport infrastructure. Whether it is in 40 degree heat or freezing temperatures, hardworking Queenslanders are delivering our state's largest ever road project—the Bruce Highway infrastructure program.

Thousands of workers—local grader operators, steel fixers, concreters, diesel fitters, machine operators, engineers, road roller drivers, electricians and traffic controllers—are paving the way with the jet black bitumen we love on \$2.3 billion in M1 upgrades and new regional ring-roads, just to name a few. These are projects the Palaszczuk government started and is delivering after the infrastructure cuts of the Newman government. At our ports, which we kept in public hands, dredging operators, crane builders—

Mr Boothman: You sold the assets.

Mr BAILEY: They do not want to hear about assets not being sold, do they?

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The minister has the call.

Mr BAILEY: At our ports we have dredging operators, crane builders, wharf contractors, piledrivers and quarry operators unlocking new opportunities for tourism and export industries thanks to the Palaszczuk government driving hundreds of millions of dollars in investment for upgrades to our Townsville and Cairns ports.

The LNP sacked more than 700 of our hardworking RoadTek road builders and first responders the first chance it had. Under the Palaszczuk government, last year Transport and Main Roads' RoadTek team started training 63 apprentices. They are apprentices who Queensland motorists need on the job building and repairing our Queensland roads—the biggest network in the nation. We do not cut; the Palaszczuk government trains and employs. Today we have a crew of 1,200-plus hardworking RoadTek staff maintaining our roads; responding to cyclones, bushfires and extreme weather events like the February floods in North Queensland; and restoring the network quickly. They are joining the workers in the 21½ thousand road jobs our government is creating.

Last week I met with 500 industry representatives and local businesses to see how their business can get involved in projects that will build Queensland's roads and rail. This includes more than \$14½ billion in projects for regional Queensland and 13½ thousand jobs for regional Queenslanders.

The Palaszczuk Labor government wants to see locals grab the jobs on offer as we build new bridges, lay new asphalt and create new transport opportunities. I have had the pleasure of being on the ground to see these projects being started and delivered by the Palaszczuk government over the past 4½ years. From seeing the thick black seal and tar being laid on the Barkly Highway upgrades in Mount Isa and the Peninsula Development Road in Cape York to starting and finishing Riverway Drive in Townsville, driving along the completed Vines Creek bridges in a Mack truck and talking with our workers on the \$812 million upgrade of the Bruce Highway on the Sunshine Coast, what is very clear is that it is only the Palaszczuk Labor government delivering the jobs, the roads and the transport that Queenslanders need.