



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Bailey**


**MEMBER FOR MILLER**

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Record of Proceedings, 3 September 2019

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Townsville, Road Infrastructure**

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.03 am): It gives me great pleasure to join North Queensland for this 2019 regional parliament. Townsville is the country's largest urban centre north of the Sunshine Coast. As Minister for Transport and Main Roads I can safely say that only the Palaszczuk government is delivering the roads and transport that Townsville's residents, businesses and industry needs.

Since 2015, we have invested more than \$790 million in roads and transport infrastructure for the region, creating jobs, building infrastructure and tackling congestion for North Queenslanders. The Bligh Labor government started planning on the Townsville Ring Road stage 4 and it was the Palaszczuk Labor government that built it. Our government was the first to commit funding for the Townsville Ring Road stage 5 too, and it had to drag the federal LNP government kicking and screaming to put in its share.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr BAILEY:** That is a fact. The Palaszczuk government planned, built and completed Riverway Drive without asset sales, without selling off the port, without selling off the rail line, like those opposite—

**Mr Powell** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Glass House!

**Mr BAILEY:** Mr Speaker, thank you. The truth hurts.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Minister, I ask you to resume your statement.

**Mr BAILEY:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. This government repaired the region's north coast rail line in just three days after the region was battered by floods earlier this year. We have delivered new bridges over the Bruce Highway at Cattle and Frances creeks, thanks in no small part to local workers, businesses and Queensland Rail staff—whom it was an honour to meet and thank this morning for their hard work in 40 degree heat; they did a magnificent job—and our hardworking MPs: the members for Mundingburra, Thuringowa and Townsville. They are all working hard for their communities.

Now, hardworking Queenslanders are building and preparing Townsville for the region's largest ever road projects. Labor's \$1.5 billion, four-year pipeline of roads and transport will create 1,200 jobs. As we speak, crews are putting the finishing touches on upgrades to the Flinders Highway from Townsville to Torrens Creek. We are building new overtaking lanes, worth \$43 million, between Townsville and Ayr. At our port, which we have kept in public hands, we are delivering the shipping—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr BAILEY:** Which we have kept in public hands—

**Mr Powell** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Glass House, you are warned under the standing orders.

**Mr BAILEY:** We are delivering the shipping hub's biggest ever transformation—a \$193 million channel upgrade that recognises the city's economic potential to get the big ships directly into North Queensland. We are getting ready to build the \$514 million Bruce Highway upgrade at Haughton River. It has already started, with four months of construction already underway.

The key point is this: unlike the member for Broadwater, we will not abandon Townsville. We will back it and we will keep backing it. We will not be cutting and running. The Palaszczuk government knows how important better roads and transport are to the region. We recognise the city's potential, its entrepreneurial attitude, resilience and love for the Cowboys, and we are creating thousands of jobs for local grader operators, steel fixers, diesel fitters, machine operators, engineers and electricians.