



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Bailey**


**MEMBER FOR MILLER**

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Record of Proceedings, 5 September 2019

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Ports, Infrastructure**

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.56 am): Queensland's publicly owned ports are a critical part of our state's economy. Freight in Queensland is expected to increase more than 20 per cent over the next decade. The Palaszczuk Labor government is investing in Queensland's ports to promote a freight boom. There is no better example of that investment at work than at the Port of Townsville, which I visited yesterday. The \$193 million channel upgrade project will mean large ships destined for Brisbane will dock at Townsville instead. The newly containerised berth 4 will benefit from a new cargo terminal area capable of handling around two million tonnes of cargo each year. Yesterday morning I met with Wally Newton from local construction company Formset.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr BAILEY:** Those opposite might not want to hear from Townsville workers.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Please continue your ministerial statement.

**Mr BAILEY:** Wally Newton spoke proudly about the fact that Formset has been a Townsville building company for three generations and was thrilled that the company was doing one of its biggest jobs in its history. The project means jobs for plumbers, electricians and builders. Up to 60 Townsville people are onsite at work every day thanks to the Palaszczuk Labor government's investment in the Townsville port. Not far from berth 4 we will build a \$48 million rail intermodal terminal to take trucks off Townsville roads—on top of the port expansion driven by the channel-widening project created by this government. These projects, paired with the \$20 million in annual discounts on rail access charges on the Mount Isa line, make it more competitive for exporters and the North West Minerals Province. The rail line has been kept in public hands by this government. The Palaszczuk Labor government is investing and growing the North Queensland economy and jobs. It is only Labor that can be trusted to keep our Queensland ports in public hands.