




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 17 October 2019

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Road Infrastructure

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.53 am): As the country's most decentralised state, millions of Queenslanders rely on our 33,000-kilometre network of roads to connect them to work, to school, to jobs and to health services each day. Thousands of farmers, small businesses and truckies use our roads to export world-class goods and services from our regions and cities to our export partners across the world. Simply put, our roads mean jobs for Queenslanders. That is why the Palaszczuk Labor government is proudly investing more than \$1 billion this year to rebuild, resurface and repair our roads, adding to a record \$23 billion over the next four years to expand our country's largest state controlled network of roads.

From Cape York to Coolangatta to Cloncurry, the Palaszczuk government is on a maintenance blitz, with more than 6,600 Queensland workers laying the bitumen and grading our roads—and 4,500 of those jobs are in regional Queensland. Through local business, our crack RoadTek team and regional councils, the Palaszczuk government's road maintenance program is employing bitumen rollers, local grader operators, steel fixers, diesel fitters, machine operators and engineers who I am always pleased to meet and thank when I am on site.

Last month I visited Lockhart River in Cape York, where a number of locals are now proudly owning and operating their own local road construction businesses—and doing fantastic work, I might add. Through a steady pipeline of work, many are now hiring members of their own community to build local roads and grow their local economy.

The Palaszczuk government recognises how important it is to not only invest in new roads and major upgrades, like the M1, but maintain them and repair them where necessary. This year alone our government will resurface 2,273 kilometres of road, rehabilitate 188 kilometres of road and line mark 4,500 kilometres of road and will carry out important work to manage fire risk, invasive plants and animals. Unlike those opposite, we will not abandon that commitment to supporting jobs in our regional communities. We will not sack 700 RoadTek workers and try to sell it off.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Chatsworth, you will cease your interjections.

Mr BAILEY: We will not cut the TIDS program to local roads and local councils right throughout Queensland. We will invest in them. We will continue to invest in rebuilding, resurfacing and repairing the nation's largest road network, unlike those opposite who cut \$600 million from the roads budget over three years.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BAILEY: They do not like to hear the truth, do they, Mr Speaker?

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Minister, I ask that you ensure your statement is of public interest.

Mr BAILEY: We will continue to push the federal government for our fair share of funding to maintain Queensland roads on their National Land Transport Network. Only the Palaszczuk Labor government will stand up for Queensland and only the Palaszczuk Labor government can be trusted to keep Queenslanders moving.