




Speech By
Michael Healy

MEMBER FOR CAIRNS

Record of Proceedings, 26 November 2019

MOTION

Federal Government, Infrastructure Funding

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (11.49 am): It will be nice to bring the debate back to relevance as opposed to making personal attacks. Maturity is a rare commodity. This motion recognises a great deal for Queensland. This is not a deal that just delivers better roads and transport sooner; it is a deal that backs Queensland and jobs. For anybody to not recognise the importance of this funding, the impressive stupidity is consistent.

Since 2015 our government has fought hard for fair federal funding for Queensland. Our fight has finally paid off. The federal government has brought forward much needed infrastructure funding for Queensland, including Far North Queensland. There is \$12.5 million brought forward for the Cairns southern access stage 5 project, which will support 110 local jobs. That is outstanding news. Cairns is a vibrant, growing regional and tropical city. It is fantastic to see the Morrison government start investing in the Far North.

This is not only about cutting travel times but also about boosting employment. In the past 12 months alone we have seen 12,000 jobs created in the Far North. This forward funding will boost the jobs pipeline even more. Stage 5 of the Southern Access Project is on top of the \$481 million Edmonton to Gordonvale road upgrade, which last month saw the construction contract awarded to the HSA Group. It is also on top of the \$103 million Kate Street to Aumuller Street upgrade being delivered under the Palaszczuk Labor government which is making significant improvements to access into the southern parts of Cairns city. The deal also means that \$97 million of federal government funding—a joint commitment of \$121 million—will be accelerated on the Peninsula Developmental Road, supporting jobs and training on the cape.

This deal does not just deliver to the Far North; it also accelerates \$8 million on the Townsville to Roma key freight corridor. The Palaszczuk government's \$14.5 billion investment in regional roads and transport infrastructure over the next four years will sustain over 13,500 jobs. This can already be seen on projects like the Mackay Ring Road, where over 1,600 workers have been inducted on site with over 80 per cent of them being local to the region.

I speak to the motion because I back Queensland jobs. Unlike those opposite, I am positive about the future of our state. Cutting, sacking and selling might be the LNP way, but it is not the Labor way. I am particularly positive when I see a Premier and a Prime Minister sitting down negotiating a deal in which all benefit. Labor fights for the best deal it can get for Queensland. We do not peddle negativity, doom and gloom like the LNP does. Let us keep the pressure on Queensland jobs. I commend the motion to the House.