



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Bailey**


**MEMBER FOR MILLER**

---

Record of Proceedings, 4 February 2020

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Weather Events, Recovery Assistance**

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.09 am): Twelve months ago communities in North and North-West Queensland were lashed by unprecedented rainfall and flooding. It saw hundreds of kilometres of roads damaged and never-before-seen flooding engulf the Mount Isa rail line. We know that when times get tough Queenslanders band together and get it done.

Queensland Rail workers worked more than 160,000 hours to repair more than 200 different sites while the Palaszczuk government's road crews rallied to repair critical roads and highways in the state's north and north-west and along the coast. As we enter 2020, parts of Queensland are once again experiencing heavy rainfall, especially over the next week or so. While this rain is certainly welcome and needed for our rural communities, it means our crews have again jumped to action and are in the field. With the current monsoonal trough expected to continue over coming weeks, the Palaszczuk Labor government's road and rail teams continue to work around the clock and remain ready to respond to any situation at hand.

It is not just flood damaged areas of our state where road and rail crews are focused. At Binna Burra in the Gold Coast hinterland the Palaszczuk government via Transport and Main Roads has been working night and day to repair local roads ravaged by bushfires late last year to restore access to the local businesses and the forests. They have built new safety barriers and rock protection measures, with works on track for completion in coming months to help local businesses get back online.

On the Cunningham Highway our workers have also put pedal to the metal to carry out emergency works at Cunninghams Gap. These crews have not just faced bushfires; they have also dealt with the subsequent impacts of heavy rainfall with no vegetation left to hold back many embankments. I am proud to say that our hardworking road repair men and women are on track to complete the first raft of emergency works within coming weeks.

I would like to acknowledge and thank all those who have worked to restore our roads and rail and who remain at the forefront of our recovery efforts. The Palaszczuk government is delivering a record \$23 billion for Queensland roads and transport. Importantly, we also remain ready to rally alongside our fellow Queenslanders to help communities recover and to get through tough times.