




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 5 February 2020

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Transport and Main Roads, Infrastructure

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.55 am): The Palaszczuk Labor government ended the last decade by completing some of the largest infrastructure projects ever built in Queensland: the \$1 billion Gateway Upgrade North Motorway; the \$1.6 billion Toowoomba Bypass; and the \$127 million Cairns shipping development dredging project. Queenslanders have seen what we can achieve when we invest in our communities to create local jobs and make our roads safer and more efficient.

The start of this decade in Queensland will be remembered for one of the largest infrastructure rollouts in Queensland history. Our record \$23 billion roads and transport investment is supporting a boom in cranes, concrete and construction from Weipa to Coolangatta. On the Gold Coast there will be more than 2,700 jobs, on the Sunshine Coast close to 3,000 jobs and there is a boom in Rockhampton with more than 600 road construction jobs. Townsville, Gympie, Mackay and Cairns all have major road projects that are creating hundreds of local jobs and supporting local families.

We will start this decade with a record year of public transport too, starting with more rail services. Next month I am very happy to announce that we will add more than 12,000 train seats on the network for South-East Queensland commuters on 32 new weekly train services. Five services will be extended, and newer trains rolled out for the very first time on the Sunshine Coast. This service uplift adds to the 462 weekly services added last year and means that there will be 212,000 extra train seats across South-East Queensland compared to the same time last year.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Chatsworth.

Mr BAILEY: Labor's rail investment in 2020—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BAILEY: It is confusing for the opposition, I know that. Queensland's rail investment in 2020 means more trains and seats for commuters, the start of light rail to Burleigh, the Sunshine Coast rail upgrade, the largest public transport project in Queensland history being the \$5.4 billion Cross River Rail project, the \$371 million statewide smart ticketing system and the \$357 million commitment to station accessibility upgrades.

Our record train crew recruitment means 218 new drivers have been trained for a net increase of 139 drivers since 2016, while another 101 are in training. This is part of the largest recruitment of train drivers in Queensland's history. We are boosting train jobs in Maryborough too, supporting more than 100 local positions, including 12 apprenticeships with the NGR rectification program. The Palaszczuk Labor government will ensure that our state's passage into a new decade is supported by better infrastructure, better services and more jobs for Queenslanders.

With more wet weather forecast across South-East Queensland and other parts of our state this week, we remind people to take care on our roads. I urge all motorists to stay safe, to put their seatbelts on, to put their phones away, to check the weather warnings and traffic information before they leave the house and to please remember that if it is flooded forget it.