




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Rail Infrastructure

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.54 am): Only one government is all aboard rail manufacturing in Queensland, and that is the Palaszczuk Labor government. We know investing in major rail projects and manufacturing means jobs for Queensland families and businesses. It means more than 250 Maryborough locals can put food on the table, buy a house and support their families.

Mr Saunders: No tough love there.

Mr BAILEY: No tough love there; that is correct. That number includes 14 new apprentices who have this year started their journey to gain the skills that will set them up for life.

I am proud to announce today that we are delivering millions more in investment for Maryborough in terms of rail manufacturing and jobs at the plant. Everyone knows the Palaszczuk Labor government is investing \$335 million to rectify the NGR trains and make them accessible. Next week crews will get started on a \$6.8 million upgrade of the city's train tracks, unlocking new opportunities in the heritage city. This project alone will support 20 construction jobs.

Rail manufacturing is in Maryborough's DNA. For 150 years, the city has built more than 2,000 railcars and locomotives. As we enter the 2020s, the Palaszczuk government is committed to making sure that proud history of rail manufacturing continues at Downer's Maryborough workshop. Today's announcement builds on a 10-year strategic partnership announced in December with Downer EDI to rebuild our iconic electric and diesel tilt trains, as well as parts of our Citytrain fleet right in the heritage city.

This was a sector that was on its knees when we were elected in 2015 because of those opposite. They cut 1,700 Queensland Rail workers, cut driver training and ordered noncompliant trains from overseas. It is thanks to this government and our member for Maryborough that the Downer workshop is once again the beating heart of the city, supporting hundreds of families.

Across Queensland, major regional rail projects are driving a rail jobs boom, with projects underway from Toowoomba to Townsville supporting more than 1,150 rail jobs. It is the Palaszczuk Labor government through its record \$23 billion, 21,500 job transport and road budget that is backing public transport, backing jobs and backing Queenslanders.