




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 19 February 2020

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SPIT MASTER PLAN BILL

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (11.54 am): The Gold Coast has prospered under the Palaszczuk Labor government. This bill is a continuation of our commitment to infrastructure and jobs on the Gold Coast and listening to Gold Coast residents. I was born on the Gold Coast; in fact, just across from the Spit at the old Southport Hospital. I have always had an affinity for the Gold Coast, despite leaving Broadbeach State School to move to Brisbane. We all know that the Spit is a much loved part of the Gold Coast—not just by Gold Coasters but many people who visit. There are beautiful beaches, the iconic Sea World, diving, boating, kayaking and the like. It is an extraordinary part of the world by any standard. The Implementation of The Spit Master Plan Bill 2019 will legislate for an implementation model for the Spit Master Plan that will see me alongside my ministerial colleagues, the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing Infrastructure and Planning and the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy, guiding agencies that report to us in their respective roles in delivering the master plan.

Under that model the Gold Coast Waterways Authority, which was established under the Gold Coast Waterways Authority Act 2012, will become the agency responsible for leading the delivery of capital works in the area covered by the master plan. The Gold Coast Waterways Authority has earned the trust and support of the Gold Coast community. It has achieved this through the strongly consultative and effective way it has undertaken its role in providing infrastructure to improve access to Gold Coast waterways for the boating community and in managing the myriad issues that present themselves in some of the busiest waterways in Queensland. It was also integrally involved in consultation activities the Palaszczuk government undertook in developing a master plan which enjoys the broad support of the Gold Coast community. We recognise the Palaszczuk government's Gold Coast Waterways Authority's expertise and local support and are keen to leverage these qualities to bring the vision of the master plan to fruition.

In bringing the master plan to finalisation I have witnessed the way that state agencies, as well as the City of Gold Coast council, the private sector and community members, have productively worked together to develop a sustainable plan for the benefit of the community. To move to the next stage requires the Gold Coast Waterways Authority Act 2012 to be amended to broaden the authority's functions so it can legally take on the lead agency role in delivering land based capital works on the Spit. The implementation of this bill therefore contains provisions to amend the act to expand the Gold Coast Waterways Authority's remit, prescribe new reporting arrangements for it, and enable board membership to be expanded.

The bill provides for up to three new board members who will possess appropriate expertise to guide the authority in the delivery of capital works envisaged by the master plan. These members will be appointed to the board by the Governor in Council upon my recommendation after I have consulted with my colleague the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning. The Gold Coast Waterways Authority's current board is comprised of skilled professionals who provide expert guidance, but this government has listened to comments received through the master plan's

development, including the committee's deliberations, and will ensure that the appropriate skills will be present on the board for the expanded role. The required extra resources to enable the authority to deliver capital works will be provided through funding agreements between it and the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning.

The Palaszczuk government's \$60 million financial commitment to the implementation of the Spit Master Plan demonstrates our resolve to implement the vision for the area that stakeholders have helped to shape. This adds to our Gold Coast investments, which have been extensive over the last five years, including: two M1 upgrades; light rail stage 2 with stage 3 to come; and heavy rail duplication from Helensvale to Coomera. The record shows that it is Labor governments that invest in the Gold Coast.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Pugh): Member for Broadwater, you are on a warning.

Mr MICKELBERG: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The minister is straying from the long title of the bill and I ask that you bring him back.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister, I ask you to stick to the long title of the bill.

Mr BAILEY: Certainly. The reporting arrangements provided for in the Implementation of The Spit Master Plan Bill 2019 will ensure that the authority has clear lines of reporting on both its new duties and its existing waterways management responsibilities. The authority will report to the Spit development minister, the Minister for State Development, on its Spit Master Plan responsibilities while continuing to report to me as the Minister for Transport and Main Roads on its waterways and management duties.

The implementation of the bill will also amend the Gold Coast Waterways Authority Act 2012 to enable the authority to recover reasonable costs related to dealing with or removing abandoned boats on contravening property as well as its core waterways management responsibilities. The Spit is a very special part of the Gold Coast, and I am proud to be part of a government that is implementing a master plan that will safeguard this precinct going into the future.

We have already shown the community how much value we place on this area with the work that has been done by the authority on the community facilities at the Spit. The authority has a strong track record there. For instance, Doug Jennings Park at the top of the Spit is a very good example of the authority taking a space that was underused and frankly neglected and turning it into a space that is enjoyed by locals and visitors alike. The works have included a major upgrade to the road between Seaworld Drive and Moondarewa Spit, additional marked parking spaces, a shared footpath around the park perimeter, landscaping, shade trees, more picnic tables and park benches. It looks fantastic.

Throughout all four stages of the upgrades, the Waterways Authority engaged with community groups and the public to make sure the projects were well delivered. As trustee of the park, the authority also worked hard to address community concerns about illegal camping, rubbish and off-road driving by introducing a model by-law to stop people from trashing the area. The authority listened to what the community wanted and provided more opportunities for enjoyment. The resounding feedback has been that people already loved Doug Jennings Park but they wanted these improvements and they are absolutely supportive of them.

The upgrades are also benefiting the local economy because of the number of events held in Doug Jennings Park since the works were completed. These events attract thousands of people and create work for everybody from caterers to film crews and bus drivers alike. On average, a dozen major events are being hosted in Doug Jennings Park each year, including the Magic Millions Polo, music festivals such as The Grass is Greener, Polo By the Sea and various film and television shoots.

The authority is already transitioning to its expanded duties through undertaking some catalyst projects for the Spit Master Plan that have a strong nexus with its waterways management role. I am confident that, with the work being done under the Spit Master Plan implementation, visitor numbers will increase as will the associated economic and social benefits for people on the Gold Coast. I am delighted that the Waterways Authority has been tasked with delivering two out of the three initial community infrastructure projects being delivered as part of the Spit Master Plan implementation.

The authority worked very closely with the department of state development, the City of Gold Coast and the community to develop the Spit Master Plan so it is fitting that they will see some of this work through with the delivery of improvements to the Moondarewa Spit foreshore parkland and the creation of the Seaway Promenade. Those works include landscaping, picnic shelters, foreshore restoration, beach showers, water refilling stations and shared cycling and walking paths. The

Palaszczuk government has set aside just over \$5 million for these works which will be completed in time for the next Christmas holiday season. These projects will create more places that embrace the lifestyle on the Gold Coast that locals and visitors enjoy.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge and thank the work of the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning on this bill and for bringing an important bill to the House. It shows that once again it is only Labor governments that invest in the Gold Coast. As I said before, when it comes to funding actual infrastructure that creates actual jobs and actual benefit on the Gold Coast, our record is very strong compared to the previous government where very little got done.