




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 20 February 2020

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Road Infrastructure; Road Fatalities

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.06 am): The Palaszczuk Labor government continues to deliver record investment in roads and transport for Queenslanders, supporting thousands of jobs. Importantly, this includes the jointly funded \$2.3 billion of four major M1 upgrades, creating more than 2,000 jobs, and the \$12.6 billion Bruce Highway upgrade program from Cairns to Brisbane, supporting more than 2,500 jobs. Significant Bruce Highway upgrades starting this year include: the \$1 billion Gympie bypass, worth 500 plus jobs; the commencement of the Edmonton to Gordonvale upgrade—and I know, Mr Speaker, that you will be very pleased—worth nearly half a billion dollars; the Bruce Highway up to the Sunshine Coast, worth \$662 million and 664 jobs; and, of course, the Maroochydore Road and Mons Road interchange upgrade, worth \$300 million and 382 jobs.

Today I am also proud to announce more road upgrades for Queensland in terms of close to \$70 million for targeted road safety upgrades right across Queensland. From intersection upgrades and wide centre line treatments to safety barriers and audio tactile line marking, Queenslanders will see these upgrades roll out from this year with close to 90 upgrades in total. This is part of a \$1 billion investment in dedicated road safety initiatives, creating more than 800 jobs, safer roads, fewer crashes and less impact on our health system. In addition, I am pleased to advise the House that we will be delivering seven new overtaking lanes between Bowen and Ayr worth close to \$30 million. Design and preparation is underway for works to start next year. At Cowley in the Cassowary Coast region we will also deliver a \$24.9 million package to upgrade intersections and improve safety on the Bruce Highway, with design to start next year.

I am pleased to report that last year Queensland recorded the lowest number of road fatalities in more than six decades, but that was still 218 lives lost—218 mothers, fathers and children whose place at the family dinner table is now vacant and who so terribly will be missed. That is why I announce today that I have directed my transport and main roads department to transition from using the phrase 'road toll' to 'lives lost'. Fatalities on our roads are not something we should accept as a given. Using a phrase like 'road toll' suggests that death is some kind of price we pay to use our roads. I find that absolutely unacceptable. I believe the term 'lives lost' is a more appropriate way to describe the horror that we still see too much of on our roads. This year we will see a record road bill which will mean more road safety and more jobs for Queenslanders.