




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 18 March 2020

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Coronavirus, Road and Transport Infrastructure

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.43 am): During this time, Queenslanders need to keep working, businesses need to stay open and our roads need to continue being built and maintained. Our roads connect communities, frontline services and local businesses. The Palaszczuk government is taking a proactive approach to make sure that our record \$23 billion investment in transport and roads continues to be delivered and to continue employing more than 23,000 Queenslanders.

All our projects at Houghton River flood plain, Mackay Ring Road, Rockhampton Northern Access, Cairns Southern Access and the M1 upgrades are underway and continuing to employ thousands of Queenslanders. These will be joined by much larger job-boosting road upgrades over the coming months, including on the Bruce Highway at Maroochydore and Mons Road, which was unveiled today; the Bruce Highway-Gympie bypass; the M1 upgrades on the Gold Coast and at the Gateway merge; and the Bruce Highway upgrade from Caboolture to Steve Irwin Way and also from Edmonton to Gordonvale, employing thousands more Queenslanders. Incomes are absolutely critical to our economy as well as to families.

We can keep these projects moving because we have worked successfully with the Commonwealth government to fast-track \$1.6 billion in funding for shovel-ready projects as announced in November last year. Since then, the Premier has been in communication with the Prime Minister to discuss funding for more projects that will help keep Queenslanders in work. I can assure Queensland road workers that we are doing our part to protect their local jobs. My department is working closely with industry groups, freight operators and businesses to ensure they can continue to operate as best as possible given the unfolding events. Transport and Main Roads' dedicated road maintenance team, RoadTek, and local contractors are ready to respond to incidents and to maintain our roads. Roads are a critical part of the supply chain into shopping centres.

I would also like to update the House on our preparedness across Queensland's ports and on efforts to protect our maritime workers. From today, all foreign trading ships will not be allowed to enter Queensland ports until 14 days has elapsed since leaving their last international port. Queenslanders can be assured that our transport workers are on the front line to reduce the spread of this virus and to keep critical services moving.