



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Bailey**


**MEMBER FOR MILLER**

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Record of Proceedings, 19 May 2020

**MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Coronavirus, Economic Response**

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (2.20 pm): One can only hope that we are all awake here in the chamber after that diatribe by the member for Everton. I remind those who lecture us economically that under the previous government we saw unemployment spike to 7.1 per cent, which is in fact more than the current unemployment rate in this pandemic, that growth plunged to 0.7 per cent, and that they sacked 14,000 people, including 1,800 nurses and doctors. Thank God they have been re-employed, because we needed them.

The best health response to this pandemic has been the best economic response too. What we see in other countries is an elongated crisis with thousands of deaths and devastated economies for a long time. The best health response has been the best economic response and that is because of the leadership of this Premier and the health minister, now Deputy Premier. They have been exemplary. We declared this first, before any other jurisdiction, on 29 January. That was six weeks before the United States. We acted fast, we acted hard and we saved thousands of lives. If this opposition had any integrity, they would at least acknowledge that because Queenslanders understand that. They can see that that has happened. Now we are moving on to the specific economic recovery issue here.

I note, for instance, that Queensland has 13 active cases while there are over 400 active cases in New South Wales, and those opposite want to open the border. They want to open the border to a state that has a lot of community transmission of this virus as some sort of economic strategy. Are they kidding? This is the health of our Queensland population that is at stake. We are the best performing state in the nation and considerably better than New South Wales with their debacles with the *Ruby Princess* ship. I might add that three of the six Queensland deaths were from the *Ruby Princess* ship.

This government will not be lectured by those in New South Wales, and we will not be lectured by the lackey opposition who are just running the New South Wales line. We will not be lectured. We will keep managing this crisis well because the health of Queenslanders depends upon it. Our record has been very strong and it will keep being strong. There are challenges ahead but we will keep at it.

The Premier announced today a \$400 million accelerated roads package which I have been very happy to be involved with. There will be 430 jobs, with 360 jobs in regional Queensland. We are targeting regional areas. We are targeting growth areas. The Mount Lindesay Highway between Chambers Flat Road and Stoney Camp Road will get \$37½ million to further the duplication work. Well done to the member for Logan who has been a relentless advocate for us there on that project. In Gracemere, the bottleneck at Lawrie Street over the railway line will be dealt with—we will duplicate the road. That is a great achievement by the member for Rockhampton in his first term. There is \$15 million for the Centenary Motorway and Logan Motorway interchange upgrade. There is a lot of growth out there in that Springfield and Bundamba area. Well done to the member for Jordan for delivering that in her first term. We are continuing the duplication of the Cleveland-Redland Bay Road with \$15 million. The member for Redlands has done a fantastic job with that.

This list is substantial. The Beaudesert Road and Illaweena Street intersection upgrade gets \$30 million. There is a great package for the Sunshine Coast, with \$18 million for a new bridge at Six Mile Creek along the Pomona-Kin Kin Road, \$9.5 million for the Beckmans Road and Cooroy-Noosa Road intersection and \$3.75 million for the Caloundra Road and Ridgewood Road intersection upgrade, thanks to Jason Hunt who is a great advocate for local roads.

We are seeing other projects like the Herveys Range Developmental Road near Townsville in North Queensland which gets nearly \$9 million. The Beaudesert-Beenleigh Road upgrade, which is in another growth area, gets \$10 million. The Proserpine-Shute Harbour Road duplication is very important infrastructure for our tourism economy and the communities up there around Cannonvale. Ipswich gets \$10 million as well.

We build roads. We create jobs. We get things done. We do not cut, we do not sack and we do not sell like those opposite. An important part of this package is that we have listened to the mayors of this state. There is \$100 million to seal dirt roads all over Queensland. We will work with local government. We will not cut like those opposite did. There is \$100 million to seal dirt roads all over Queensland—roads like May Downs Road, the Burke Developmental Road and the Cloncurry-Dajarra Road. We get things done.

We have steered this state well to this point. We will keep doing that by investing in jobs and building the infrastructure that we need. We know that those opposite cut and that they will cut again if ever they get the opportunity.