




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Coronavirus, Economic Response

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.00 am): This week the Palaszczuk government told Queenslanders how we will continue to protect their health while backing their jobs. The Premier's announcement of hundreds of millions of dollars in support for a range of sectors was the first stage of Queensland's economic reset. It builds on the \$6 billion already committed by our government to manage the health response, support businesses and families and protect local jobs.

Every Queenslander deserves the dignity of having access to a job and the chance to earn a living. Even before the coronavirus arrived the Palaszczuk Labor government had policies that put Queenslanders first. As we have driven record investment in transport and road projects we have prioritised Queensland businesses and their workers. I am pleased to say that Transport and Main Roads is an outstanding champion of our Buy Queensland policy. Over the last four years Queensland suppliers have consistently won Transport and Main Roads contracts at a rate of 92 per cent. Regional Queensland suppliers make up 57 per cent of Transport and Main Roads suppliers. In dollar figures, that is \$1.89 billion spent with regional suppliers over the 12 months to March 2020. That equals jobs for truck drivers, traffic controllers, machinery operators and support for Queensland businesses like equipment suppliers, engineering firms, bitumen suppliers and earthmoving companies.

In Mackay work worth more than \$152 million has been awarded to regional suppliers, subcontractors and plant hire companies. On the Mackay Ring Road almost 1,700 workers have been inducted on that site, 82 per cent of whom live within the Mackay region. South of Townsville crews have been working on North Queensland's biggest road project, the \$514 million Bruce Highway upgrade at the Haughton River, a 13-kilometre-long worksite. Nearly \$38 million has been spent with local businesses in the Burdekin since work began last April, and 800,000 tonnes of material has been sourced from quarries in Giru, Ayr and Townsville. Those materials are being transported to site by local trucks and then applied and compacted by machinery supplied from Townsville and the Burdekin. These are just some of the examples of how the Palaszczuk government's policies are seeing money flow directly into the bank accounts of Queensland workers and businesses.

The LNP talks about backing business, but history shows otherwise. They abandoned Queensland workers when they sent contracts overseas to build trains. We returned those contracts to Queensland, where they belong. Queensland Rail has an agreement with Downer that will support local rail jobs in Maryborough for years to come. This partnership supports Maryborough's economy, nurtures a new generation of skilled rail workers, and ensures projects are delivered by Queenslanders for Queensland.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BAILEY: Judging by those interjections, the opposition has still not learned any lessons from their mistakes of the past. The road ahead out of COVID-19 will be long and testing, but as long as we unite and keep putting Queenslanders first we will recover together.