



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Bailey**


**MEMBER FOR MILLER**

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Record of Proceedings, 17 June 2020

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Coronavirus, Economic Recovery**

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.03 am): The global pandemic has impacted economies globally, and our state is not immune. The response of Queensland and Queenslanders to COVID-19 has been world class and, because we have managed well the health impacts, Queensland is good to go. Our unite and recover plan will create Queensland jobs when they are most needed.

Yesterday, the Premier announced the second stage in Queensland's plan for recovery, delivering almost half a billion dollars in stimulus investment for small business, new jobs, regional councils and projects. In my portfolio, that includes our hardworking taxi and limousine industry, which I am proud to say will receive a \$23 million shot in the arm. There are more than 3,200 taxi and 500 limousine licences right across Queensland, representing thousands of small businesses that need our support. They are critical to keeping our Queensland economy connected and are key to our economic recovery. Per vehicle, our package will provide support payments of \$3,500 for operators, an additional \$1,000 for licence holders and \$1,500 for booking entities per vehicle. This package is especially important for Queenslanders with a disability, with the package to include an additional \$1,000 payment for wheelchair-accessible taxis. The Taxi Council Queensland has welcomed this announcement, with many of its members seeing demand plummet in the past few months by upwards of 70 per cent. Its CEO, Blair Davies, said—

Along with many other industries, we have been brought to our knees by COVID-19 but it is now time to start standing back up and get going again. The Government's assistance package will be a well-timed tonic to help our members do just that.

I thank Blair and the Taxi Council for working closely with government to support our taxidrivens in developing this package. It builds on the \$54½ million essential transport package released in April and a \$585 million Queensland roads stimulus package previously announced. It adds to the \$23 billion pipeline of roads and transport projects supporting 13,500 regional Queensland jobs.

Recently I travelled to the South and North Burnett and to the Darling Downs—in the seats of Callide, Nanango and Toowoomba North—to see how our roads investment is supporting jobs at such a crucial time. I saw traffic controllers, water truck drivers and bitumen sealers on the new \$18 million Three Moon Creek Bridge and \$3 million Mundubbera-Durong Road upgrade. I joined the local mayor, Rachel Chambers, and AgForce president Georgie Somerset to announce our \$5 million contribution for the John Peterson Bridge and the \$8 million to seal Monto-Mount Perry Road.

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Mr BAILEY:** One would have thought the member for Nanango would welcome these announcements, but clearly from her interjections she does not support these—that is very sad to hear. I announced \$13 million for the New England Highway between Yarraman and Toowoomba and inspected the \$9 million Emu Creek Bridge south of Yarraman and works on the new \$7.5 million Highfields route. One might think that the member for Nanango is feeling the pressure.

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The Leader of the Opposition will cease her interjections. The minister will continue with his statement.

**Mr BAILEY:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I inspected the \$7½ million Highfields Bikeway, a fantastic new corridor where cyclists will not have to mix with vehicles on the highway. It is a safe, picturesque investment with lots of local jobs there as well. Investing in Queensland infrastructure and business means jobs in regional Queensland and throughout the state. That is what the Palaszczuk government does. We support Queenslanders and we support Queensland jobs. We will continue to support Queensland jobs with our Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs plan.