




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 14 July 2020

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Road and Transport Infrastructure

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.58 am): As the most decentralised state in Australia, it is roads and transport that drive our economy, regional prosperity and jobs. Our 33,000-kilometre network of roads and 6,600 kilometres of rail link schools, hospitals, businesses, workers and world-class exports to markets around the globe. Global economies have been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic and both Australia and Queensland have not been immune. In true Queensland spirit, our community has rallied and thanks to our strong health response via the strong leadership of our Premier and Deputy Premier and by Queenslanders themselves, we have been able to kickstart Queensland's plan to unite and recover for Queensland jobs.

A cornerstone of the plan for economic recovery is more than \$1 billion in new and accelerated roads stimulus funding announced since COVID hit earlier this year. That will be delivered in addition to our record \$23 billion, 21,500-job pipeline of roads and transport infrastructure, because investing in Queensland infrastructure means Queensland jobs in our local communities, particularly when we most need them. We have collaborated with the federal government and I thank the Deputy Prime Minister for understanding the importance of this stimulus and working with me. The \$1 billion—more than 50 per cent funded by the Palaszczuk Labor government—will support more than 1,000 new jobs, seal key outback freight routes, accelerate shovel-ready projects and deliver local road projects that will supercharge our economy.

There is \$185 million in joint funding for 22 key inland freight upgrades; a \$200 million commitment to seal dirt outback roads and upgrade bridges; and a further \$200 million for key economic projects such as the Lawrie Street upgrade in Gracemere, the Cleveland-Redland Bay Road project in Redlands and upgrades to the Mount Lindesay Highway in a high-growth corridor. There is a joint \$415 million for shovel-ready projects, including our new Regional Economic Enabling Fund and targeted road safety upgrades. In the Whitsundays we have \$15 million to lay more bitumen and seal sections of the Bowen Developmental Road. Last week I met with Mayor Andrew Wilcox, who has said—

Upgrades to the Bowen Developmental Road will provide a huge boost to all local businesses that rely on this critical link to get their products to market.

It will also boost our battling tourism sector by sealing the pathway for the valuable outback drive market to visit the Whitsunday ... In Goondiwindi we have locked in more than \$6 million to widen the Barwon Highway. Of our funding Mayor Lawrence Springborg said—

... the project will return the investment through jobs, improved efficiency for farmers, transport operators and local residents and importantly enhance safety.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr BAILEY: I endorse the comments of Mayor Springborg, even if those opposite do not. They seem to have disowned him.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my left! Minister, please continue with your ministerial statement.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my left, I have called you to order, but you are continuing. The minister has moved on. I ask you to hear the ministerial statement.

Mr BAILEY: The Palaszczuk Labor government knows there is a long road ahead as we unite and recover from this pandemic. That is why we are focused on a Queensland plan for economic recovery with a laser-like focus on infrastructure, jobs, industry and business—not cuts—because, as the Premier said, investing in lasting infrastructure projects now will benefit all Queenslanders in the years to come, strengthening our economy and jobs.