




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 13 August 2020

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Road and Transport Infrastructure

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.09 am): It is the Palaszczuk Labor government that has an economic plan for recovery. Roads move Queensland forward in more ways than one, which is why our economic plan includes a \$12.6 billion commitment to build a better Bruce Highway and futureproof it with a Bruce Highway Trust. The global impact of COVID-19 has been far-reaching, with impacts on economies including Queensland's, but because of Queensland's strong and ongoing health response—

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr BAILEY: I hear interjections from those who spent nothing on infrastructure. It is because of Queensland's strong and ongoing health response that we have kept supply chains open and freight flowing and we have continued to build game-changing Bruce Highway upgrades from Cairns to Brisbane. That has helped to support thousands of jobs, drive safety and supercharge Queensland's freight efficiencies and supply chain into the future. Between Gympie and Brisbane, which are regions expected to boom, we are building \$3 billion in Bruce Highway projects and driving a \$2 billion plan for much more. Last week we announced the first major contract for the \$1 billion Bruce Highway Gympie bypass. This 26-kilometre new road will generate close to 600 jobs and a greater capacity for our freight industry. It will join more than \$1.1 billion in works already underway on the Sunshine Coast and will be followed by another \$660 million upgrade to six-lane the Bruce Highway from Caboolture to Steve Irwin Way between Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast.

Mr Ryan: Hear, hear!

Mr BAILEY: I acknowledge the support from the member for Morayfield. This week we started consultation on a \$2.1 billion commitment to upgrade the Bruce Highway in Moreton Bay and the connecting Gateway Motorway. That plan includes a new arterial road between Dohles Rocks Road and Anzac Avenue—the Moreton Connector. Our plan will make sure that our roads are ready for the double demand expected on this stretch in the next two decades and, importantly, support another 1,200 jobs. That is because Labor backs the Sunshine Coast, we back Gympie and we back Moreton Bay—not just through roads but also through rail where we are delivering the \$550 million Sunshine Coast rail duplication, which will create more jobs, public transport and opportunities for Queensland businesses.

Mr Minnikin: On the never-never. Anna Bligh, 2009.

Mr BAILEY: Those opposite did not even start the business case on it. We are getting it done, with more than half a billion dollars worth of investment. This week in response to the COVID-19 pandemic we introduced close to—

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr BAILEY: I will start again. This week in response to the COVID-19 pandemic we introduced close to a thousand extra bus services and 105 train services to extend morning and afternoon peak services and help the community spread their travel patterns as part of our COVID-safe public transport plan. I want to acknowledge our commuters and, importantly, our Queensland Rail drivers and station staff and our TransLink and QR staff and planners who have successfully brought these additional services online. They are running very smoothly. The Palaszczuk government knows how important transport and roads are to our economic recovery. We can be trusted to continue investing in the transport infrastructure that this state needs.