




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Road and Transport Infrastructure

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.13 am): A record \$23 billion pipeline of road and transport projects is happening under this government, with a \$14.5 billion commitment to our regions. We have delivered four record road and transport budgets, with 90 per cent of works completed by Queensland companies; delivering 277 new bridges and culverts; sealing more than 500 kilometres of outback roads; \$1 billion going to road safety directly; delivering \$168 million for more bike lanes across Queensland; and delivering 90 new and upgraded boat ramps, floating walkways and pontoons for our boaties up and down the coast of Queensland. We have removed 630 derelict boats as part of our War on Wrecks program. We have also seen 353 RoadTek apprentices come online, bolstering RoadTek after the treatment by those opposite. That is the record of the Palaszczuk government.

In 2015, when this government handed down its first budget, I said roads, particularly for rural and remote communities, are the lifeblood of many communities. Since then, we have completed the \$1.6 billion Toowoomba bypass; \$1 billion on western roads; \$874 million in Bruce Highway upgrades between Cooroy and Curra; \$276 million on sealing the Peninsula Developmental Road in Cape York; \$200 million for the Townsville Ring Road stage 5; \$119 million for upgrades to the Bruce Highway at Cattle Creek and Frances Creek; Bruce Highway upgrades between Robert and Foster roads in Cairns; the Yellow Gin Creek Bruce Highway upgrade between Ayr and Bowen; and the \$38 million Tinana overpass. It was the MP for Maryborough who helped bring train manufacturing back to Maryborough, where they are rectifying the trains bought from overseas.

We also boosted our commitment to working with councils through our fifty-fifty TIDs funding, with 243 projects completed just last year. Last weekend we completed Mackay's largest ever road project—the \$497 million Mackay Ring Road. It was great to join the member for Mackay, who has been a great advocate for the project, and some of the 1,800 workers inducted onsite—80 per cent of whom were local—to mark the occasion.

I want to especially acknowledge the contribution of the former member for Mackay and my friend, the late Tim Mulherin, who has sadly passed away. He was unable to attend the opening on Saturday—though his wife, Erin, was there—but he was certainly there in spirit. I saw him last Saturday afternoon. He was in good spirits and he was talking policy.

Global economies are doing it tough, and Queensland is not immune. Thanks to the efforts of Queenslanders and the leadership of the Premier, Queensland is the best-performing state in response to the global pandemic in Australia. That means that we can build on our momentum of delivering better and safer roads for regional Queensland. Last financial year we delivered \$3.4 billion in road and transport infrastructure—above and beyond our target of \$3.1 billion.

Now we are getting on with \$14.5 billion regional road and transport projects like the \$1 billion Gympie bypass; the \$1 billion Rockhampton Ring Road; the \$481 million Bruce Highway upgrade from Edmonton to Gordonvale that is under construction now; another \$237 million to seal roads in Cape

York; the \$230 million Townsville Ring Road stage 5; more than half a billion dollars to build a better Mount Isa rail line and Townsville port—both publicly owned and saved by this government; and the \$110 million Mackay northern access upgrade. We will also deliver another \$1 billion in road stimulus funding announced since April in conjunction with the federal government. These projects will support more than 13,500 jobs and will deliver broader economic benefits including better freight efficiency, road safety and more drive tourism opportunities.

The Palaszczuk government has a proven record of delivering jobs and infrastructure for Queensland. We will not cut but we will continue to back Queensland and regional Queensland jobs 100 per cent.