




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 10 September 2020

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Road and Transport Infrastructure

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.57 am): One of the Palaszczuk Labor government's proudest legacies is its record investment in transport and roads. This legacy can be seen across our vast state, whether it is Cape York, Coolangatta or Cleveland Redland Bay Road. Driving west one can see the sweeping viaduct flying over the Toowoomba Range—the \$1.6 billion Toowoomba bypass, built by 800 local workers. One can see the Greg Sutherland Bridge that opened last weekend as part of the new \$497 million Mackay Ring Road, where 1,800 local workers were inducted on site. One can see our \$2.3 billion M1 upgrades, upgrading interchanges, adding capacity, busting congestion in Brisbane and on the Gold Coast, supporting more than 2,000 jobs.

Between Brisbane and Gympie more than \$3.5 billion is locked in for major Bruce Highway and rail upgrades to support growing Sunshine Coast communities. Cairns and Rockhampton are experiencing road construction booms with major upgrades underway at the northern and southern ends of those cities. The \$1 billion Rockhampton Ring Road will be one of the largest projects in Queensland's history when it starts in 2022, creating close to 800 Central Queensland jobs.

The Palaszczuk Labor government is driving investment in Cape York as well, sealing the wild road to Weipa. Bruce Highway works between Townsville and Ayr at the Haughton River are supporting 544 local jobs along a 13-kilometre worksite. We will start building stage 5 of the Townsville Ring Road next year, as well as continuing Bruce Highway upgrades north of the city, with 560 jobs, after we have already built Townsville Ring Road stage 4 and Riverway Drive. More than \$1 billion is committed to the Warrego Highway, west of Brisbane, with many safety improvements already delivered west of Toowoomba.

Since April the Palaszczuk Labor government has announced a further \$1 billion in road stimulus funding, creating another 1,000 jobs in response to the COVID-19 pandemic as part of our economic plan for recovery. The vast majority of those 100 projects being delivered will support regional jobs and improve safety on rural and regional roads such as the \$35 million Lawrie Street upgrade in Gracemere that is starting later this year, strongly advocated for by the member for Rockhampton.

The Palaszczuk Labor government is investing in Queensland's publicly owned ports, which we will keep in public ownership. We completed the \$127 million Cairns Shipping Development Project and work on the \$193 million Townsville Channel Upgrade Project, which was majority funded by this government, is well advanced, supporting 120 more Townsville jobs, to allow much larger ships to go straight into North Queensland. Those projects, along with our increased investment in the Mount Isa rail line to support our North West Minerals Province, will build better supply chain productivity and boost trade at our ports.

Public transport has enjoyed record investment under the Palaszczuk Labor government. Before COVID-19 we had back-to-back years of record public transport patronage. Queensland Rail is delivering more weekly services than ever before, with record recruitment of train drivers and guards.

We have built heavy rail from Helensvale to Coomera and duplicated that section and, of course, the Gold Coast Light Rail stage 2 was built in record time before the games. Works on stage 3, from Burleigh to Broadbeach, has already started. Cross River Rail will transform South-East Queensland's rail network and we are also upgrading train stations, expanding park-and-rides and rolling out a smart ticketing solution for the whole public transport system right across Queensland.

This proud record has been achieved without selling public assets. Queensland has been the best state in terms of managing the COVID pandemic and has been one of the best economically. Thanks to strong economic leadership from the Premier, major projects supporting thousands of Queensland jobs are coming online now when they are most needed. However, we cannot afford to lose momentum. Our economic plan builds on the Premier's strong, steady and consistent leadership throughout the pandemic to unite, recover and rebuild our economy to create the jobs that Queenslanders need.