




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) (10.05 am): It is an honour to again serve as the Minister for Transport and Main Roads as part of a re-elected Palaszczuk government charged with delivering Queensland's plan for economic recovery. Queenslanders backed our Premier, our record and our vision for the Sunshine State. In the last month we have seen Queensland take big strides in the face of this global virus. Our borders are reopening because we have kept Queenslanders safe and construction on our major infrastructure projects is moving from strength to strength, including at the Townsville port where the city's tallest structure is set to arrive tomorrow: a new \$30 million ship-to-shore crane to supercharge our freight industry in North Queensland.

The Palaszczuk government knows transport and roads are vital to jobs and economic growth. That is why we have delivered a record investment in projects like the Toowoomba bypass, M1 upgrades, the Mackay Ring Road, Peninsula Developmental Road upgrades and a real \$12.6 billion jointly and fully funded Bruce Highway plan with major works underway up and down the spine of Queensland. It is why we have worked collaboratively with the federal government to lock in \$4.8 billion in new and accelerated road and transport funding since last November. It means thousands of secure jobs for Queenslanders. It means improving productivity for our economy and better safety for those travelling across our state. Over the next four years Queenslanders will see major projects like the \$1 billion Gympie bypass, the \$480 million Bruce Highway upgrade from Edmonton to Gordonvale and close to \$2 billion in M1 upgrades completed.

Mr Harper: And Riverway Drive!

Mr BAILEY: And Riverway Drive. I thank the member for Thuringowa. Riverway Drive stage 2 comes. Our \$1.5 billion second M1, a 16.1-kilometre alternative corridor from the AFL stadium at Carrara to the marine precinct in Coomera, will start next year. The Gold Coast's iconic blue and yellow trams will make their way to Burleigh Heads with our \$709 million third stage of the light rail underway.

We will also see 662 local jobs come online with the six-laning of the Bruce Highway between Caboolture and the Sunshine Coast and more than 800 with the \$1 billion Rocky ring-road. We will boost the inland freight route from Charters Towers to the New South Wales border, improving efficiency for our freight industry and taking heavy vehicles off the Bruce Highway and increasing safety. We are also building Queensland's largest rail project, the \$5.4 billion Cross River Rail, and Queensland trains will be built by Queenslanders in Maryborough. We have committed a \$1 billion rail manufacturing pipeline to lock in long-term stable manufacturing jobs and supply chains across Queensland, including in Rockhampton in terms of the supply chain. We will strengthen our coastal shipping industry with a \$21 million commitment to get more local crews on ships, supporting a new shipping service between Townsville and Brisbane and more maritime skills and training.

Global economies are doing it tough, but thanks to Queenslanders and the strong leadership of our Premier we will deliver Queensland's plan for jobs and economic recovery because this government will always put Queenslanders' health and economic strength first.