



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Bailey**


**MEMBER FOR MILLER**

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Record of Proceedings, 3 December 2020

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Roads and Transport Infrastructure**

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.54 am): This week the Palaszczuk government delivered a budget for Queensland that sets out our state's plan for economic recovery. The strength of our health response—of Queenslanders, our Premier and Chief Health Officer—means we can now forge a path to create more jobs, more opportunities and lay the foundation for our future. I am proud to say this budget includes a fifth record roads and transport investment, one which focuses on regional Queensland's economic recovery plan. Our \$26.9 billion program will support 23,600 jobs with more than half of that investment—\$15 billion—to go directly to our regions and statewide programs supporting 13,500 jobs.

Over the next four years, families in rural and remote areas will see this government continue to deliver on its real \$12.6 billion jointly funded Bruce Highway plan—not a hoax, a highway—while some of the state's largest ever jobs and infrastructure projects kick off. Alongside our 33 projects on the Bruce Highway currently underway, we will deliver \$200 million to upgrade Queensland's inland freight route from North Queensland to the border: the 'Bruce 2'.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr BAILEY:** I know it is confusing. I know a fully funded Bruce Highway is confusing for those opposite.

That builds on our existing \$125 million partnership with the federal government to upgrade the corridor between Townsville and Roma that already exists. This project will take trucks off the Bruce Highway, improving safety for motorists and boosting supply chain efficiency for our freight industry, primary producers and our resources sector, while also making sure that we are ready for cyclone season with other contingencies if the coastline is hit by cyclones.

We will invest \$100 million to seal dirt roads, build new bridges and drive safety as part of a \$4.8 billion in joint COVID stimulus funding for roads and transport secured with the federal government over the last eight months. Queensland workers will build Queensland trains in Maryborough with our \$1 billion commitment that will see the heritage city's proud history of train building continue for generations to come. That is on top of more than half a billion dollars to bolster the Mount Isa rail line and Townsville Port, backing in our minerals province and regional economy.

In the Far North we are building the \$480 million Bruce Highway upgrade between Edmonton and Gordonvale, delivering 466 local jobs—a project I know is dear to your heart, Mr Speaker. In Townsville we will build Townsville Ring Road Stage 5, Riverway Drive Stage 2 and upgrade Stuart Drive in the electorate of the member for Mundingburra with a \$46.5 million investment. In Mackay and Whitsunday the Palaszczuk Labor government will get started on the Walkerston Bypass and deliver upgrades for Proserpine's Shute Harbour Road, which last night I was glad to discuss with Mayor Andrew Wilcox. In the west we will continue to seal sections of the Kennedy and Diamantina Developmental roads, to name but a few. In Rockhampton we will build the \$1 billion Rockhampton Ring Road and in Gympie the \$1 billion Gympie bypass.

We will also see investments at our ports like Bundaberg, and we will strengthen our coastal shipping industry with a \$21 million commitment to get more local crews on Queensland ships, support a new shipping service between Townsville and Brisbane, while developing more maritime skills and training.

The Palaszczuk government knows transport and roads are vital to jobs and economic growth, especially as part of our state's economic recovery plan. We have a proud record of delivering for regional Queensland, as can be seen with more regional members of parliament in the government, and we will deliver another record investment for regional Queensland that will support jobs, support industries and support regional growth going forward.