



Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 23 February 2021


APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) (2020-2021) BILL

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Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation (2020-2021) Bill

Transport and Resources Committee, Report

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (5.36 pm): I do not think it is any great secret that this government supports manufacturing Queensland trains in Queensland. We have had that policy since before the 2017 election, but for those opposite it seems to be a revelation. We all know that they ordered trains from overseas that were not disability compliant. That was an incredible botch-up that we are still recovering from and still have to rectify. We are doing that with Queensland workers. It is a \$330 million project. That was another botch-up by the member for Clayfield when he was the treasurer of this state. How do you have a record majority and then lose it in three years? That is extraordinary. There are a few theses on the Newman government and how not to do things in that, but I digress.

I acknowledge and thank the committee for their work on the budget estimates process and for their strong interest in roads and transport. I extend my thanks to the member for Kurwongbah for his continued hard work as committee chair and to the member for Bancroft who stepped in as acting chair at short notice. I acknowledge and thank the member for Maryborough and Assistant Minister for Train Manufacturing and Regional Roads. He is a member who is very well versed in both areas.

Those opposite have been prattling on about a lack of infrastructure. They seem to have missed our record budget of \$26.9 billion worth of infrastructure in the transport and rail space, worth 23½ thousand jobs, which is about 50 per cent more than that spent on infrastructure in the last year of the Newman government. Let us look at the facts. We have a record \$56 billion infrastructure program. The Gympie bypass has started. Cross River Rail never would have happened under those opposite. Given the cuts they made when last in government, if the LNP had been elected the jobs that are driving our economy at the moment would not be there. The Bruce Highway is being upgraded from Edmonton to Gordonvale. The M1 is being upgraded. There was not a single new dollar for the M1 when the member for Clayfield was the treasurer of this state and the member for Broadwater sat at the cabinet table with him. They ignored the Gold Coast and they ignored infrastructure. We saw unemployment spike. We saw economic growth plunge to 0.7 per cent. It had a zero in front of it when they were in power!

We are seeing an investment in road and rail infrastructure right across the state. In the cape the five-year peninsula development project is happening because of this government. There are Bruce Highway upgrades. We are seeing a \$17.8 billion commitment to areas outside Brisbane. Sixty-six per

cent of the budget is going to regional Queensland. That might explain why we have a whole bunch of new members from regional Queensland. I welcome to our ranks the members for Hervey Bay, Bundaberg, Nicklin, Caloundra and, of course, Pumicestone.

Four stimulus packages have been added due to our economic plan for recovery from COVID. It is the same sort of net gain as seats that we won at the election, coincidentally. We are seeing those projects coming into the economy, creating jobs and confidence—a very good spread right across Queensland, not just in coastal areas but into western Queensland, south-western Queensland and north-west Queensland. We are making sure that job spread is strong right across our state, because we govern for the whole state.

We saw the LNP at the last election leave their costings until the last two days, and they absolutely botched it. They used a fund to raid regional road projects—\$700 million, including the Sunshine Coast—to pay for the second M1. It was an incompetent piece of economic behaviour and policy. The economic superiority of this government is one of the many reasons we won the election.

I note the opposition's statement of reservation on Cross River Rail. It would not happen unless a Labor government was in power. We know that; that is very clear. We will continue. It is going well. We saw the Auditor-General's comment on it: on time, on budget. No matter what sort of ridiculous comments are made by those opposite, we are getting it done.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BAILEY: I hear them pipe up. They cut it not once but twice. They tried to cut it twice. How is that working for them? How is opposition? Are they enjoying it over there? They have been rejected because they continue to knock back Queensland. They did not back us when it came to health advice, our economy and people's health. The Leader of the Opposition is quoted as saying that our world-leading health response was tantamount to throwing a doona over your head. He abused our health leaders as punch-drunk bureaucrats. This an opposition that does not learn and loses seats every time. Its performance on the budget was pathetic.