



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Bailey**


**MEMBER FOR MILLER**

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Record of Proceedings, 24 February 2021

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Road and Transport Infrastructure**

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.53 am): Last year Queenslanders backed the Palaszczuk Labor government's plan for economic recovery. They backed a \$56 billion infrastructure plan to steer our state and create hundreds and thousands of long-term, stable jobs. They did not back secret plans to cut regional road funding or highway hoaxes. As 2021 ramps up people right across Queensland are turning up to job sites thanks to the start of a record \$26.9 billion road and transport spend by this government.

While other nations remain at a standstill, Queensland's construction industry is booming, making the Sunshine State the place of choice. Our fifth record investment in roads and transport is creating opportunities in existing and even new industries with a pipeline of 23,600 jobs. If you hop in a car, Mr Speaker, you will see an army of high-vis out in force from traffic controllers and bitumen rollers to surveyors, engineers and graders. You will see trucks using our upgraded freight rails carrying world-class beef, agriculture and manufacturing exports to ports along our coastal spine. From sealing our western roads and investing in regional ports, to getting started on the second M1 and building on the 33 Bruce Highway upgrades underway right now, there is no shortage of high-vis across the Sunshine State.

In 2021 heavy construction work will start on: \$1.5 billion second M1; \$662 million Bruce Highway six-laning from Caboolture to the Sunshine Coast, where early works are already clear; \$230 million Townsville Ring Road stage 5; and 87 jointly funded road safety projects right across the state worth \$300 million, just to name a few. They will join existing projects that are ramping up, including: \$5.4 billion Cross River Rail; \$1 billion M1 upgrade on the southern Gold Coast; \$750 million upgrade at the Gateway merge near the Minister for Energy's area; \$1 billion Gympie bypass; \$480 million Bruce Highway upgrade south of Cairns, which I know is close to your heart, Mr Speaker; and the continuation of the half a billion dollar pipeline to upgrade our north-west supply chain.

As the Premier pointed out, regional Queensland will be the biggest focus, with 66 per cent of our programs outside of Brisbane. Whether that is the \$103 million Bruce Highway Salt Water Creek Bridge upgrade in Maryborough, the \$35 million Lawrie Street upgrade in Gracemere or the \$120 million Mackay northern access upgrade, we will create 16,180 regional jobs. Queenslanders can be proud of their fellow Queenslanders, who are hard at work building a transformational road and transport system. The Palaszczuk Labor government is committed to boosting our thriving economy as part of our economic plan for recovery with infrastructure, projects and jobs from Tugun to the Torres Strait, from Mount Isa to Maryborough, and from Birdsville to Brisbane.