




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 25 February 2021

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Roads and Transport Infrastructure; Job Creation

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.38 am): The Palaszczuk Labor government's record \$26.9 billion Transport and Roads Investment Program is tackling congestion and supporting growing Queensland communities. That investment supports jobs—more than 23,000 across the state, most of them in regional Queensland. From Cairns to Coolangatta and Longreach to Logan, people are turning up to work today on projects backed by this Palaszczuk Labor government.

We are not just investing in jobs for today. Queensland's economic success depends on identifying and backing emerging industries that will support jobs of the future. The development of hydrogen based technology provides the opportunity to secure our state's energy future and grow jobs. Those opportunities exist not only through hydrogen production and storage projects but also via greater investment and exports through Queensland's publicly owned ports. Queensland can do that by harnessing cleaner, low-emission technology.

The transport sector is one of the biggest contributors to total emissions, producing about 13 per cent of Queensland's total greenhouse gas emissions. The Palaszczuk Labor government is committed to cutting total vehicle emissions. I am excited about the opportunities that presents for the transport sector and am working closely with the energy minister, the member for Springwood, and the assistant minister for hydrogen, the member for Bundamba, to develop those opportunities.

We are also transitioning Queensland's bus fleet to zero-emission vehicles. We have backed Gold Coast based company BusTech to build electric buses, with the first to be trialed in Logan. That project is supporting 150 jobs, boosting local manufacturing capability and supporting new skills and training opportunities.

Queensland has also led the way by being the first state in Australia to adopt an Electric Vehicle Strategy, including the largest electric superhighway in one state anywhere in the world. We recently opened 13 more electric vehicle charging stations on the superhighway, which is supporting jobs across not only the manufacturing sector—for instance, at Tritium at Murarrie—but also installation and electric work.

At the last election, Labor backed regional Queensland with a \$1 billion commitment to train manufacturing jobs at Maryborough and rail supply chain jobs at Rockhampton. Under Labor, a 10-year pipeline of rail maintenance work in Maryborough has already been created, providing certainty for workers and businesses. By ensuring a reliable pipeline of work in regional cities like Maryborough and Rockhampton, the Palaszczuk Labor government is ensuring regional Queensland can become magnets for skilled workers, new jobs and businesses to invest.