




Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Bailey**

**MEMBER FOR MILLER**

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Record of Proceedings, 10 March 2021

**ADDRESS-IN-REPLY**

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (6.53 pm): Let me begin by saying that it is a great honour to be re-elected to the 57th Parliament by the people of Miller. I sincerely thank the constituents of my electorate for the faith that they have placed in me, including the considerable number of people who voted for me for the first time, I expect, having won with a 5.6 per cent swing. I will work hard, as I always work hard, for every constituent in my electorate. It is a great honour and one I never take for granted. I will work very hard throughout this term in office to improve lifestyles, opportunities and rights for my local people.

I acknowledge the Premier, Deputy Premier, my cabinet colleagues and my caucus colleagues. It is an absolute privilege to be part of such a progressive, effective government that is working for the betterment of the state for all Queenslanders in a third term. We all achieve things in different ways, but we do it as a team. That is the difference. We have a very cohesive team and that is why we have been given a third term. We have renewed well on the way through. It is an honour to be part of this team. It is something I value every day.

I also want to acknowledge my ministerial team and my office team. I thank my chief of staff and my office staff who work so hard and are so dedicated. We could not do it without our ministerial staff either. Thank you also to the union movement and the workers of Queensland who stand up for a fair go and are an important part of this government.

I would like to pay tribute to the Premier, the Chief Health Officer, Dr Jeannette Young, and the Deputy Premier, who was the health minister for much of last year. They were there when Queenslanders most needed them. Their hard work, supported by this government, has been world leading. Our economic recovery plan is an important part of coming out of the pandemic, as is having had the strongest base. The best health response equalled the best economic response. That is something we understood from the beginning. Sadly, a lot of nations did not. Other people in this chamber still do not.

I welcome our new members, the members for Caloundra, Pumicestone, Bundaberg, Nicklin, Cooper, Hervey Bay, Mundingburra and Stafford. We have renewed well each election. These new members bring a lot to the table. With the grind of government a party needs renewal and that is something that this government has always had. I welcome all new members to our team and thank the constituents who backed them in because they all have a lot to offer.

I am deeply cognisant of the immense task that lies before us on our road to economic recovery following the global pandemic and its impacts. Our priority since the pandemic first reached our shores has been safeguarding the health of Queenslanders and thereby supporting their jobs, their livelihoods and the economy and, of course, our economic plan for recovery. An effective health response has been the most effective economic response. Can one imagine what might have happened in terms of the health of Queenslanders and our economy if we had listened to those opposite who called for the borders to be opened 64 times?

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr BAILEY:** Here they go again interjecting. They still have not learned their lesson. We know the record of the member for Broadwater. He is on the record as saying that our world-leading health response was tantamount to going in the corner, sucking your thumb and putting the doona over your head. They are his words on video. He also abused our health leadership right in the middle of the pandemic, calling them punch-drunk bureaucrats. The Prime Minister came to this state and lectured Queensland and said, 'Open the borders. Open the borders.' We have been proven correct.

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Lui): Member for Nanango, cease your interjecting.

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Nanango, you are warned under the standing orders.

**Mr BAILEY:** The member for Nanango interjects. She has a more marginal seat than I do these days. One would think she would learn a lesson. When it comes to the health response we stood our ground. The reason Queenslanders and Australians are safe is not because of the Prime Minister who said open the borders or those opposite; it is because of strong premiers like Premier Palaszczuk and other premiers who stood up for good policy under tremendous pressure.

We have led the world and to this day I cannot recall a single time when there has been a real and genuine acknowledgement by anyone in the opposition or by the opposition leader of that world-leading response to the COVID pandemic. They are diminished when they cannot see that we have been world leaders in terms of the response to the pandemic. If those opposite want credibility then get with the program and acknowledge the good work that has been done in Queensland. Not to this day has there been a single word of praise or acknowledgement.

**Ms Bates** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Mudgeeraba! Order!

**Mr BAILEY:** Those opposite continue to interject. That is all they are good for. You only have to look at other countries around the world, particularly the US and countries in Europe, to see the devastation that the virus has caused and is still capable of causing. People have lost family, friends, workmates—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr BAILEY:** I am talking about the most profoundly serious global event in a long time, but all those opposite can do is yell across the chamber. It is pathetic and sad.