




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Road and Transport Infrastructure

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.56 am): Knocking on the world's door 12 months ago was a virus that would change our everyday lives. While other places languished and were slow in their response, our Queensland community rallied. Queenslanders, with the leadership of the Premier and the Chief Health Officer, joined forces to tackle the impacts of the pandemic that sadly continues to ravage other nations today. As part of that response, the Palaszczuk government worked with all levels of government and industry to lock in what is now \$5 billion in road and transport stimulus. Because of that, I am proud to say that Queensland today is the place to be. Our collective efforts have meant that construction has powered ahead, keeping Queenslanders in jobs and putting food on the table for hundreds of thousands of households.

I am pleased to advise the House that, on stimulus projects alone, 37 projects are underway right now and another 100 will start in the next three months. The vast majority are in our regions. That includes \$19 million for the Cloncurry-Dajarra road in the north-west; \$35 million for Lawrie Street in Gracemere; \$20 million for the Carnarvon Highway between Roma and Injune; \$10 million for Bundaberg-Miriam Vale Road, which I know the member for Bundaberg will support; and \$15 million for the Capricorn Highway between Emerald and Alpha. These kinds of projects mean jobs for council road crews right across the state, local construction businesses, equipment hire companies and dollars spent by those crews in local cafes, restaurants and hotels. Those projects join 33 others being built on the Bruce Highway as we speak, and another 120-plus projects are in the pipeline as part of our \$12.6 billion Bruce Highway plan.

Over the next four years we will deliver a record \$17.8 billion for regional road projects, supporting more than 16,000 Queensland jobs. That is 66 per cent of our road and transport spend outside the south-east corner. The 130-plus stimulus projects that have either started or will start in the next three months will see jobs created and continue into a pipeline of major projects, including the \$1 billion Rockhampton Ring Road; the Bruce Highway upgrades in Cairns, Townsville and Mackay; and, our favourite, the train manufacturing in Maryborough. It is all part of a \$56 billion infrastructure guarantee—part of our economic recovery plan, making Queensland the place to be.

I am proud to be a Queenslanders. I am proud of the effort of all Queenslanders over the last 12 months which has seen our spirit and leadership shine. I know that everyone is proud to be part of an ongoing, world-class pandemic response that is keeping Queenslanders safe, creating jobs and maintaining our Sunshine State lifestyle.