




Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Bailey**

**MEMBER FOR MILLER**

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Record of Proceedings, 11 March 2021

**ADDRESS-IN-REPLY**

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (11.28 am), continuing: I think it is fair to say that the vaccine is now helping enormously in that the cases are starting to come down internationally. We are seeing it rolled out across Queensland and that is something that Queenslanders are very pleased about. I acknowledge the Minister for Health in the House and I thank her and the previous minister for health, along with the Premier and the Chief Health Officer, for their incredible leadership throughout the COVID crisis in Queensland. We have led the world.

Economies worldwide are enduring the harshest of economic downturns in generations because of the different kinds of decisions they have made and the terrible things they have had to experience. We are not immune from the impacts even going forward, so we still have to do what we are doing and keep doing it well. We are as committed as ever to getting the health response right because we know that it is not just people's health but people's jobs, and that is our first priority as the Palaszczuk Labor government.

That means we are growing manufacturing across our traditional and new and emerging industries, building Queensland by driving investment in the infrastructure that supports our recovery, and backing our frontline services and workers—whether that be doctors, nurses or our health staff who have been so magnificent, or our public sector workers who have provided services throughout, like our bus drivers, train drivers, station staff, teachers and firefighters, just to name a few. I thank them all for their incredible commitment, especially our teachers. Last year was probably one of the hardest years that teachers have ever experienced. It also means we are protecting our environment and heritage for future generations and achieving our 50 per cent renewable energy target by 2030. We are on track for that and we are committed to that. That was brought in when I was the minister for energy.

In the transport space, we remain committed to working with Queenslanders to build on our record investment in rolling out road and rail projects right across Queensland that boost jobs and infrastructure for a growing state. Since the election last year, we have begun the rollout of a record QTRIP investment of \$26.9 billion to support more than 23,500 jobs across Queensland. That is part of a record \$56 billion infrastructure program by the Palaszczuk Labor government over the next four years. Over these four years we will deliver such projects as the \$1 billion Gympie bypass, the \$480 million Bruce Highway upgrade between Edmonton and Gordonvale, and close to \$2 billion in the two M1 upgrades. Two of them are completed and two of them are well and truly underway, as anyone who drives through there can see.

The Palaszczuk Labor government's first budget of the term means thousands of secure jobs for Queenslanders. We see 662 local jobs coming online as we six-lane the Bruce Highway between Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast, between Steve Irwin Way and the Bribie Island turnoff, which I know a lot of people will be very pleased to see. There are 800 local jobs coming in terms of the \$1 billion Rockhampton Ring Road.

Improving productivity in our economy and providing better safety are absolute priorities for this government. We are also getting on with the Cross River Rail project—our largest infrastructure project—that will unlock the bottleneck at the core of our public transport network in South-East

Queensland. We have entered the second year of construction for Cross River Rail, and the visuals are absolutely breathtaking and awesome. Work is now underway at 10 worksites across Brisbane, and this is employing thousands of workers. That would not be happening if those opposite were elected. They cut this project and then they promised to cut it again in the 2017 election. These jobs are critical at this time, and we have backed it every step of the way and we still do. The precincts also offer great opportunities going forward that piggyback on top of the initial investment.

Our record investment in infrastructure—where we are spending 50 per cent more on transport and rail infrastructure than the last government—stands in contrast to their record of cuts, sacking and selling. For instance, they ordered from overseas the NGR trains that were not disability compliant and they did not seek to fund Queensland built trains in their election platform even just last year, not that long ago. However, we have committed to a \$335 million rectification program at Downer in Maryborough which is supporting 100 Queensland rail manufacturing jobs. We will back commuters and Queensland manufacturing to ensure that all new trains will be built by Queensland workers in Queensland. I would certainly like to acknowledge the hard work and the partnership of my assistant minister, the member for Maryborough. We have worked really well over the last six years. I enjoy working closely with him. He is a champion of regional road and rail. He won his seat on primary votes, after Labor got 13 per cent in 2012. That is an incredible achievement by him.

We have committed to a \$1 billion rail manufacturing pipeline to lock in long-term, stable manufacturing jobs in Maryborough and also future supply chains. We have said very clearly that the first 20 new trains for Cross River Rail will be built in Maryborough as part of a procurement process. We are proud of that.

I would now like to turn to local achievements in my electorate. I am already working with the departments to roll out our commitments. The Tarragindi Tigers Football Club are getting \$190,000 for new lights which were desperately needed. They have already been installed, which is great to see. Go the Tigers. They are a terrific club. I have had much to do with them both as a councillor previously and as their state member. The South Graceville Hounds Rugby League Club are getting \$450,000 to upgrade their second field, which is very uneven to say the least, and a new clubhouse because their current one has had nothing done to it since the 1970s. It looked a lot like my clubhouse when I played under-10s for Easts at Scott Park, I have to say. It took me back. It needs upgrading, that is for sure.

**Mr Kelly:** A great club.

**Mr BAILEY:** Yes, it is a great club. I will take that interjection from the member for Greenslopes. We have a \$1 million commitment to upgrade the Souths cricket ovals and the oval and facilities for the AFL Kenmore Bears who play in Chelmer. These facilities are in desperate need of an upgrade. I am really pleased to say that we have change facilities coming in for our women players at Souths Rugby at Yeronga, with a \$200,000 commitment. There is also a \$150,000 commitment for the Yeronga Devils AFL. They are formidable women football teams and it is great to work with them. The popularity of women in football at the moment is just phenomenal.

We have a \$10 million-plus commitment to convert the old Yeronga dental hospital into classrooms and admin for the Yeronga State School. That is catering for their future growth and it is certainly needed. We have also committed to the Yeronga Community Centre having a home base there as part of the Yeronga health hub, which is another commitment of ours worth \$8½ million. They will have a permanent home for the Yeronga Community Centre. This is very critical because they provide support to the vulnerable members of our community. There is also a commitment of half a million dollars to the Sherwood State School for after-school-hours care. I look forward to working with them.

This is on top of a lot of election commitments that have already been delivered. The Ipswich Motorway upgrade is very close to completion. I have made a commitment to the Walter Taylor second bridge. There is a commitment by the Lord Mayor for design work to get underway, and I look forward to that progressing and I thank the Lord Mayor for his cooperation. I also mention the Veloway bikeway upgrades, air conditioning in schools, solar in schools and koala-proof fencing along the freeway at Toohey Forest. These are things that have been delivered on my watch in Miller which I am very proud of, and I will certainly keep the community informed.

It is always an honour and a privilege to serve in this place. We all must remember that throughout our terms. I give my absolute commitment that I will be working as hard as ever for my constituents in Miller. Whatever your job is in here—and I am lucky to have been a minister now into a third term—your first job is to your constituents. I will never forget that and I will work hard for them every single day.