



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Bailey**


**MEMBER FOR MILLER**

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Record of Proceedings, 23 March 2021

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Bruce Highway**

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.04 am): There are very few names that are as Queensland as Bruce. Everyone in Australia knows about the 1,677-kilometre Bruce Highway and our Assistant Minister for Regional Roads and MP for Maryborough, who is known outside this chamber as Bruce—a case once again of Bruce on the Bruce. The Assistant Minister for Regional Roads got on the road to showcase how Queensland's economic recovery is well underway. Travelling from Maryborough to Central Queensland, he checked out how Queensland's plan for economic recovery is creating jobs in our regions and how the Palaszczuk Labor government is delivering a very real \$12.6 billion Bruce Highway plan. He inspected rest stops, new overtaking lanes and some of the 33 Bruce Highway projects underway right now by this government. He also met with construction crews who are benefiting from the 16,000 regional jobs created as part of the \$17.8 billion spent on regional roads and transport.

The assistant minister knows that our work will not stop there. Joining the 30-plus projects underway are another 120 projects in the pipeline. Whether that is the \$1 billion Rockhampton Ring Road, the Townsville Ring Road stage 5 or Cairns Southern Access Corridor stage 5, this government has a program of works to keep local jobs going, particularly in the regions. That is why last week the assistant minister joined Bruce Highway Trust chair Peter Garske to launch nominations for an expanded trust—something we committed to at the election—together with a \$100 billion boost to the Bruce Highway which we expect the federal government to match. The trust will drive a long-term vision for all 1,677 kilometres of the Bruce Highway with a series of five-year action plans.

Nominations have opened for six regional representatives who regularly use the highway and are road safety experts or regional development experts. Having these additional voices join statewide industry leaders like RACQ, Queensland Farmers' Federation, Queensland Trucking Association and local and federal government representatives will help identify what our regions need for the future and leave the politics out of Queensland's critical artery. Projects like the \$1 billion Gympie bypass, the \$480 million Cairns Southern Access Corridor and the \$120 million Mackay Northern Access Upgrade show what can happen when all governments work together. I look forward to the new members being selected.

The Bruce Highway connects families, regional centres, economies and freight from paddocks to ports to export markets. With so much wet weather around I urge people who drive the Bruce and everywhere to drive safely and to especially keep an eye out for our road workers and first responders as they build a more flood-resilient highway, particularly on the Bruce at the Haughton River and the Gympie bypass. You only have to look at the swathes of families moving here and the jobs we are creating to see that our economic recovery is well underway. We can only deliver our economic plan for recovery because the Palaszczuk Labor government is united. We are not raffling \$10,000 a night accommodation on the aptly named Makepeace Island like the LNP. We are united; we are not a rabble like those opposite.