




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 22 April 2021

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Road and Transport Infrastructure

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.00 am): The Palaszczuk Labor government's record \$26.9 billion investment in better roads and transport are a key part of our economic plan for recovery and it is driving an infrastructure boom across Queensland. The majority of that investment is in regional Queensland supporting more than 23,000 quality jobs over the next four years and providing a reliable pipeline of jobs for Queenslanders as we emerge from the pandemic. Time stuck in traffic is time better spent with family, friends and other things. Congestion drains our economy through lost time and productivity. That is why Labor is backing a record investment in congestion-busting projects.

We are not just focused on our state's major highways; we are also targeting notorious intersections and stretches of roads to relieve local congestion and improve safety. Last week I joined the Premier and the member for Mount Ommaney to open the new Sumners Road interchange, proudly named the Len Waters Overpass. This \$80 million overhaul of one of Brisbane's busiest interchanges was delivered six months early by the hardworking transport and main roads department and has been welcomed by the 35,000 people who use it every single day. I want to thank the member for Mount Ommaney for being such a great advocate for that project, and it has also been welcomed by our cycling community because we grade separated the Centenary cycleway from the interchange while we were at it. It is particularly satisfying to see this project delivered after it was cut by those opposite, including by the Leader of the Opposition when he was in Campbell Newman's cabinet.

We also recently completed the \$10 million Hope Island Road and Labrador-Carrara Road intersection upgrade on the Gold Coast. More job-creating road projects have started in growing communities in the south-east, including the \$30 million Petrie roundabout upgrade supporting 60 direct jobs—something I know the member for Kurwongbah has been such a strong advocate for; the \$30 million transformation of the Strathpine Road and Gympie Arterial Road interchange, which the member for Aspley has championed on behalf of his community; and the \$34 million series of safety upgrades to improve the Nerang Murwillumbah Road in the Gold Coast hinterland.

In our regions work is surging ahead, with the \$164 million Smithfield bypass supporting 175 Far North Queensland jobs campaigned so hard for by the member for Barron River and minister; the \$16 million Harley Street intersection on the Cairns Western Arterial Road, with another 16 jobs; and of course the member for Rockhampton's favourite \$35 million Lawrie Street upgrade with 56 jobs. Some 88 per cent of net migration in Australia in the next four years is coming to our state—the Sunshine State. Since 2015 the Palaszczuk Labor government has prioritised congestion-busting investments in better roads. We have set a cracking pace and we will not be making the same mistakes of the previous government of cutting budgets and freefalling growth and freefalling jobs. Queenslanders can be certain that we will stay focused on building better roads and rail to help them get home quicker and safer.