



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Bailey**


**MEMBER FOR MILLER**

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## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Regional Queensland, Road Infrastructure; Federal Budget, Roads

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.59 am): Regional roads are absolutely crucial to Queensland. The Palaszczuk government is delivering record investments in road upgrades to make those connections safer and more convenient. Roads across Western Queensland have benefitted from the commitment of the Palaszczuk Labor government to infrastructure across this state. Since 2015 we have delivered more than \$1 billion worth of road upgrades for Western Queensland and we will see another \$1 billion locked in for Western Queensland over the next four years.

Last week I had the pleasure of chatting with local road crews working on the Cramsie Muttaborra Road about an hour north of Longreach. They were busy sealing a four-kilometre section of that road that links Muttaborra with Longreach. I clearly remember Jake, a concreter, being very proud to work on that project for his local community.

Our investments, including four COVID infrastructure stimulus packages, will deliver road upgrades right across Queensland including completely sealing this road by next year, and the locals absolutely love it. That project is one of many major road upgrades underway now in Central West Queensland and right across the state. These projects deliver better access to essential services in remote communities, greater economic productivity and safer regional roads. They also support the growing drive tourism economy that is helping Queensland bounce back from the COVID-19 pandemic like the Lake Dunn Sculpture Trail near Aramac where we are partnering with the council to build stopping bays for the hundreds of visitors using that trail and to allow better access to the Muttaborrasaurus and the Muttaborra Interpretation Centre—fantastic assets in regional Queensland.

These projects also mean jobs. The mayor of Barcaldine was very positive as he showed me around. He told me that because of our investments, his council has expanded their local road crew and have bought more road-building kit. About 800 local jobs will be supported from next year when work starts on the Rockhampton Ring Road. During Beef Week last week we shared new images that show how the ring-road will transform the city's road network. I know the members for Rockhampton and Keppel are excited to see the ring-road take shape and I encourage Rocky locals to find out more about the consultation my department is running over the next few weeks.

The Palaszczuk Labor government has built a strong pipeline of projects to support Queensland's economic recovery. We need fair federal funding to continue that strong pipeline and to deal with population growth in our state. Queensland was already one of the fastest growing states in Australia before the pandemic, and the latest ABS data shows growth has accelerated as more people choose to move here with an 88 per cent net migration predicted in the next couple of years. However, in tonight's federal budget we will see states like New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia once again receive far more infrastructure funding than Queensland.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr BAILEY:** That is a fact. Queensland will continue to do the heavy lifting on infrastructure investment because we will not do the sweetheart deals with Canberra that would force us to sell public assets as other states have. We will always stand up for a fair share of federal funding for Queensland. As the federal Treasurer prepares to hand down his budget tonight, we say the time for Queensland to receive its fair share is now, and what a shame those opposite do not support us.