



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Bailey**


**MEMBER FOR MILLER**

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Record of Proceedings, 16 June 2021

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Budget, Road and Transport Infrastructure**

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.01 am): Queensland's strong leadership during the COVID-19 health crisis means that our state is the place to be. More people are moving to Queensland than anywhere else in the nation. When worksites across Australia and the world shut down due to lockdowns, Queensland kept building. Since the beginning of 2020 we have injected an extra \$1.3 billion into the economy to accelerate almost 200 road and transport projects to support jobs across our state. This budget boosts infrastructure investments to keep the momentum going on Queensland's economic recovery. We are proud to deliver the sixth record road and transport budget in a row.

Some \$27.5 billion will be invested over the next four years to support jobs and bus congestion. That is 50 per cent more than when we came to office. I note the comments from RACQ head of public policy, Susan Furze, who said, 'The \$27.5 billion in transport funding will go a long way to helping Queenslanders move safely and efficiently around our state. With 119 lives lost in road crashes, we also support the funding boost for road safety programs.' We do not just talk about it; we do it. Our investment supports 24,000 jobs. Most of those jobs—almost 16,000 of them—will be in regional Queensland.

We will keep backing the Bruce with a jointly funded \$883 million boost. Our priorities for the Bruce include improving sections between Gladstone and Rockhampton and north of Townsville as well as building four lanes at Tiaro. There is funding to move freight more efficiently across the state by improving key road and port connections. That includes our \$25 million commitment to the \$125 million Gladstone port access road. It also includes ramping up works on the inland freight rail, which is strongly supported by the Queensland Trucking Association, to take trucks off the Bruce Highway, making it safer for local communities and moving freight more efficiently.

On the Sunshine Coast it was this government that got the Mooloolah River interchange business case done, and now we are investing \$160 million to get it done. The embarrassment of those opposite is palpable. Isn't it great to have two new members on the Sunshine Coast who are so effective! This budget also locks in funding for light rail to Burleigh. We will start construction this year on stage 1 of the second M1 between Nerang and Coomera after it was blocked by the previous government. With almost 120 lives lost on Queensland roads so far this year, this budget commits \$1.6 billion over four years to prioritise road safety initiatives. We will continue to deliver our \$1 billion Queensland Rail building plan in Maryborough, including a \$50 million commitment to upgrade regional train stations in Rockhampton, Maryborough West and Bundaberg.

The Local Fare Scheme, which provides discounts of up to \$400 for a return airfare for residents in regional and remote communities, will be extended. Financial support for transport operators impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic will continue until the end of the year, ensuring Queenslanders across the state have access to essential services. This Palaszczuk Labor government is backing a

substantial pipeline of projects that are being built now or are in planning. Those projects will reward value for money, innovation, and provide quality local jobs, more training to build local workforce capacity, better workplace safety, and prioritise local suppliers and manufacturers. Queenslanders can have confidence that our four-year investment plan will continue to build better infrastructure and back Queensland workers and businesses for a growing state. We do not just talk about it; we do it!