



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Bailey**


**MEMBER FOR MILLER**

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Record of Proceedings, 31 August 2021

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Road and Transport Infrastructure**

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.12 am): I also welcome to the chamber the new member for Stretton after one of the best performances in a by-election one can recall. The infrastructure boom in Queensland is pushing ahead at a lightning pace thanks to Queensland's strong health response. Compared to other states like New South Wales, our construction sites remain open, with jobs surging ahead.

Last week I travelled up Queensland's coast to see the Palaszczuk Labor government's record investment in transport and roads, electrifying our economic growth. From Roma Street to Rockhampton, I met hundreds of workers in jobs because we are backing Queensland infrastructure. My week started underground at Cross River Rail's future Roma Street station, where tunnel-boring machine Merle broke through—an awesome sight as a three-tonne slab of rock cracked and broke off in front of us. It was quite a sight! I congratulate the 2,900 workers who have already worked on this transformational project with such a major milestone achieved.

My next stop was at North Lakes, with the member for Bancroft and the Assistant Minister for Hydrogen Development, the member for Bundamba, where the Palaszczuk Labor government is supporting Hornibrook Bus Lines to create Queensland's first all-electric, zero-emissions bus depot. Better yet, the 16 ebuses in the fleet will be manufactured in Queensland, creating dozens of jobs on the Gold Coast.

Further north, I joined the members for Nicklin and Caloundra on the \$301 million Bruce Highway upgrade between the Mons Road and Maroochydore Road interchanges, supporting 380 Sunshine Coast jobs. The next day, in Central Queensland I met 160 contractors at an industry breakfast, all of them to get a slice of the \$1 billion Rockhampton Ring Road, the city's largest ever road project, to start next year. This included Jono and Kelvin from a First Nations civil engineering company who are thankful that this government is creating jobs for Central Queensland workers. I also visited the \$194 million Rockhampton Northern Access Upgrade with the members for Rockhampton and Keppel. I am happy to report it is now open to traffic.

Going north, I then went to Mackay and the Whitsundays, where we have locked in more than a billion dollars of road and transport projects, an investment that I know the member for Mackay campaigned hard for. This includes \$31 million to duplicate Proserpine-Shute Harbour Road, a road the LNP cut funding to. That is where I met Myles, a 35-year-old road-working veteran who is supervising for RoadTek. Sadly, many people like Myles lost their jobs when those opposite sacked 700 RoadTek workers.

The last stop was the Far North, where I joined you, Mr Speaker, and the member for Cairns as work started on our separated cycleway as part of the \$481 million Bruce Highway duplication on the Cairns southern access. This will create one of regional Queensland's longest off-road cycleways, encouraging more active transport for both residents and tourists.

Our record investment in roads and transport is creating more than 24,000 jobs over four years, driving Queensland's economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Unlike those opposite, we build. We build and they cut. That is the truth of it. The people of Queensland will never forget the cuts made by those opposite under then premier Newman and his local government minister, now the Leader of the Opposition. Thanks to the Palaszczuk Labor government's strong health response, Queensland is open for business and infrastructure is booming.