




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Ports

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.24 am): One of the enduring legacies of this Palaszczuk Labor government will be its recognition of the role of Queensland's publicly owned ports and their valuable contribution to our state's economy. It was not long ago that some of those ports were in danger of being sold off under the previous government's policy of Strong Choices.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BAILEY: Mr Speaker, you can always depend on them for a response to those two words—'Strong Choices'. Labor kept them in public hands. Since 2015, Labor has invested in Queensland's ports and our maritime workforce to capitalise on emerging trade opportunities and developing markets across the world.

There is no better example than the \$232 million Townsville port channel upgrade project. That project involves widening Townsville's shipping channel to allow larger ships to access the port, instead of bypassing Townsville for Brisbane. Last month the final rock was laid on a new 2.2-kilometre sea wall that will create 62 hectares of new land in the port precinct—the largest expansion in Townsville's port history. Last month we also commissioned the new ship-to-shore crane at berth 4. The crane was the final part of a \$70 million upgrade of the berth 4 facility delivered by this Palaszczuk Labor government that has more than doubled the berth's overall handling capacity.

Our publicly owned ports play a critical role in terms of jobs and our economy here in Queensland. Mackay Port has just recorded its largest ever month of exports, with more than 448,000 tonnes of materials sent overseas, doubling the figures from this time last year—a result I know the member for Mackay is happy to see. Last financial year, a record 23 million tonnes of LNG left Gladstone's port—a 3.7 per cent increase from the year prior—a result I know the member for Gladstone is very glad to see. These figures prove Queensland continues to be a leading energy exporter to both domestic and international markets.

Now Queensland looks to become a leading producer and exporter of hydrogen. Hydrogen presents an incredible opportunity to create new jobs and decarbonise our economy. We now have agreements in place to export hydrogen from Townsville, Hay Point near Mackay and Gladstone. We want our regional cities to be at the forefront of Australia's hydrogen industry, and we are positioning them to be major players in the global renewable energy market.

Queenslanders can be confident that the Palaszczuk Labor government will keep investing in their publicly owned ports so they can continue to support regional communities and economies and the growth we are backing in our manufacturing and resources sectors.