




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 13 October 2021

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Railways, Manufacturing

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.03 am): Many of us are familiar with the Australian Made Campaign and its green and yellow kangaroo logo. It is iconic branding that backs locally made projects and the local jobs they support—something that I note federal Labor is a big supporter of—but it is a strategy that can be taken further. With what is happening across Queensland, it could be time to start a Queensland Made Campaign. There is no better example of this than what is happening on Queensland's rail network.

Just over a week out ago I was out with the member for Bundamba, a strong supporter of local rail jobs, announcing a new multimillion dollar contract for Redbank based Progress Rail. This deal will see the five locomotives that drive our *Spirit of the Outback* and *Westlander* tourist trains across western Queensland upgraded. It will improve engine reliability and performance, reduce fuel use by up to 20 per cent and decrease exhaust emissions and oil consumption. Better yet, it supports 48 local jobs at the Redbank rail yards, including four apprentices who recently transitioned to qualified tradespeople, skilling up our rail industry for what is to come. The Palaszczuk Labor government is continuing to deliver on our rail manufacturing strategy for Queensland.

Bolstering this, today I can announce that we have awarded a three-year multimillion dollar contract to Rockhampton rail manufacturer Austrak. The deal will see Austrak supply concrete sleepers to Queensland Rail over the next three years. I know the member for Rockhampton is a big advocate for regional rail supply chain jobs and will be pleased to know that this gives the 50-worker-strong Rockhampton factory a three-year pipeline of work. This all builds on the 283 jobs saved by the Palaszczuk Labor government in 2017. All up, we have now created a \$1 billion guaranteed pipeline of train building work in Queensland, and I note the assistant minister for rail manufacturing. The \$1 billion pipeline is critical to Queensland's COVID economic recovery plan and will ensure there are efficient, reliable services on our growing train network for Cross River Rail and the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games and beyond.

'Queensland made by Queensland for Queensland'. You can picture it now, a new maroon logo—insert your favourite Queensland wildlife species there, maybe a cassowary—'Queensland made'—

Mr Minnikin: It might be a mango!

Mr BAILEY: Maybe. If the stamp existed. I go with a cassowary, but a 'Queensland made' logo. If the stamp existed you would be seeing it right here across Queensland rail's network because the Palaszczuk Labor government is backing rail manufacturing jobs like never before.