



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Bailey**


**MEMBER FOR MILLER**

---

Record of Proceedings, 2 December 2021

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Weather Event**

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.01 am): It is been a challenging few days for many Queenslanders. Flooding has closed up to 450 roads across our state and isolated some towns. Indeed, Inglewood has flooded. We have seen too many swiftwater rescues and, sadly, two lives have been lost in the last week due to vehicles being swept away in floodwaters. Even if you have travelled a road a thousand times and think it is safe to cross, you never know what lies beneath the water or its velocity. I say to everybody: please do not drive into floodwaters; it is just not worth the risk. After two tragedies, I say again to Queenslanders: if it's flooded, forget it. While the weather is improving, we are looking at another wet month ahead.

We are doing all we can to get that message out, but the Palaszczuk Labor government is also investing in infrastructure to improve the flood resilience of our road networks generally—like the recently opened \$514 million, 13-kilometre-long Haughton River upgrade along the Bruce Highway south of Townsville and the now complete \$158 million Rockhampton Northern Access Upgrade in the Fitzroy River flood plain area, thanks to the advocacy of the members for Keppel and Rockhampton. Works are ramping up on the \$103 million Saltwater Creek flood immunity project on the Bruce Highway, which was so strongly advocated for by the member for Maryborough. This week we called for tenders for a \$30 million upgrade of the Torbanlea Pialba Road to flood-proof this critical link to Hervey Bay.

Tragically, 263 Queenslanders have lost their lives on our roads this year. They are all people whose lives were tragically cut short, leaving devastated families and friends behind. That is why the Palaszczuk government are investing \$1.7 billion in road safety initiatives and improvements, as part of our \$27.5 billion record road and transport plan. That includes the new mobile phone and seatbelt cameras. These cameras have snapped 3,441 offences in the first two weeks. That is why we are cracking down on dangerous driving behaviours—in the same way that we cracked down on drink driving earlier this year through tougher penalties for those caught.

We will be rolling out new high-tech school zone and roadworks speed cameras on the ground next year. The 'fatal five'—speeding, drink and drug driving, not wearing a seatbelt, fatigue and driver distraction—are major factors in more than half the lives lost on our roads. We are sending a clear message that breaking the law behind the wheel means you will be caught and fined. Everyone on the roads deserves to be safe, especially heading into our holiday season. With a wet summer ahead of us, being aware and driving safely is more important than ever. The best Christmas present Queensland drivers can give this year is themselves.