




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 23 February 2022

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Weather Events; Road and Rail Infrastructure

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.03 am): The force of La Nina is being felt right now across South-East Queensland and north up to the Wide Bay, with some areas copping more than 400 millimetres of rain overnight. When wild weather happens the impacts on our transport system are often unavoidable. Unfortunately, this morning is no different.

More than 100 roads have been impacted by flooding and hazards, including the Bruce Highway. As the Premier outlined before, there has been one tragic consequence. We have seen major impacts on our rail network. We have had crews on the ground since early this morning working hard to assess damage and make repairs. On behalf of the government, I thank all of our first responders from Queensland Rail, TMR, RoadTek and emergency services and all others involved. They are doing a great job.

We saw them get the Ferny Grove train line reopened in less than an hour this morning after the wet weather caused an electrical fault. Right now, we have also got them assessing damage after a freight train derailment on the Sunshine Coast line. At 3.19 this morning a freight train came off the tracks between Cooran and Traveston. I am advised the driver has not suffered any major injuries, but the derailment combined with flooding has resulted in the closure of the train line between Caboolture and Gympie. Queensland Rail already has replacement buses up and running, but some stations, including Mooloolah and Palmwoods, have been difficult to access due to localised flooding of the local road network. At this time, we would ask people in those areas to only travel if it is absolutely necessary and to remember if it's flooded, forget it.

With more rain and wild weather predicted, we are expecting further impacts on our transport network this week. If people have to drive it is important that they drive super safely and get live updates on QLDTraffic. There will be live information about closures, openings and those sorts of things. It is important for people to be informed before they go out.

Extreme events will happen but they reinforce the need to invest in our road and rail network. The Palaszczuk government is doing just that with our record \$27.5 billion investment in roads and transport over the next four years. This includes: \$3 billion to deliver more Queensland Rail services than ever before; \$7.1 billion to build 65 trains in Queensland to transform our state into a rail manufacturing powerhouse; and \$1.1 billion towards Logan and Gold Coast faster rail, which was announced for the first time yesterday and not what was falsely claimed by the opposition's so-called integrity spokesperson, the member for Maroochydore—I will be writing to you, Mr Speaker, about that.

We are also delivering the \$550 million Beerburrum to Nambour line upgrade on the Sunshine Coast and the \$1 billion Gold Coast Light Rail stage 3—not to mention the \$5.4 billion Cross River Rail project; a project that will transform travel throughout South-East Queensland for a booming population and a booming economy. Combine this with our multibillion dollar projects on the M1—we do not ignore

the M1; we invest in it—and the Bruce Highway. We are doing everything we can to futureproof Queensland's transport system, whatever is thrown at it by the weather. As we brace for more wet weather in coming days, I remind Queenslanders to be safe on our roads and if they do not have to travel then please do not.