




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 24 February 2022

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Digital Licences; Transport and Road Infrastructure

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.48 am): I am excited to announce the contract to build Queensland's new digital licence app has been awarded to Thales Australia and New Zealand. The incredibly successful trial on the Fraser Coast in the electorates of Maryborough and Hervey Bay—isn't the member for Hervey Bay doing a great job in this parliament?—has encouraged us to roll out a digital version of not only the driver's licence but also a digitised version of both the marine licence and proof of age card. That is welcome news for Townsville boaties and young people. The trial included a sample size of over 750 people, of which 94 per cent responded as satisfied with the app. To ease any concern with those who wish to stick with the physical card in their wallet, this app is offered as an alternative for those who opt for it, not as a replacement of the physical licence.

The digital licence will have additional privacy features. The user of the app can select the information they wish to show depending on what they need. For example, when using it to enter hospitality and social venues, addresses can be withheld. That is an improvement on the physical card. It will be encrypted, password protected, with remote disabling capability if it ends up in the wrong hands. Better yet, Thales will partner with Queensland app developers Aliva and Code Heroes, showcasing the Queensland tech industry and talent. This means Queensland jobs, supporting local IT jobs and encouraging the growth of the Queensland tech industry.

This solution is an Australian first, because it will meet the International Mobile Driver Licence Standard so that Queenslanders heading overseas will be able to use their digital licences. The digital licence app is expected to be ready for statewide rollout in 2023, with a second trial to take place in Townsville later this year. That is very warmly welcomed by the members for Thuringowa, Townsville and Mundingburra.

The introduction of digital licences and IDs, plus our \$371 million investment in smart ticketing systems for quicker and easier transport around our state, shows our commitment to facilitating the latest technology for Queenslanders. It does not stop there. We are delivering a \$105 million rollout of smart motorways technology on the Bruce Highway between north Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast to improve traffic flow. We are rolling out \$30 million worth of the same ITS smart technology on Far North Queensland's Kuranda Range road to improve safety and reliability.

High-tech solutions form an important part of the Palaszczuk Labor government delivering a record \$27.5 billion transport and road project budget in Queensland over the next four years. This means jobs for Queenslanders—24,000, in fact—as the Palaszczuk Labor government embraces the innovation the future affords, as Labor only does in Queensland and will always do. That is one of the key reasons we have a 4.4 per cent jobless rate after it skyrocketed to 7.1 per cent under those opposite.