




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 31 March 2022

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Road and Rail Infrastructure

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.59 am): The Palaszczuk Labor government is in the midst of delivering our sixth record investment in roads and rail across Queensland. We believe in regional Queensland. That is why \$17.8 billion in road and rail projects will be delivered outside the south-east. We are not like Scott Morrison, who has failed to deliver for Queensland roads.

It seems between Morrison, Joyce and Frydenberg someone forgot about one of Queensland's most important roads—the Bruce Highway. The budget handed down this week by the federal government did not commit a single new construction dollar to the Bruce Highway, despite the Palaszczuk government committing its share for future upgrades. We are delivering 61 Bruce Highway construction projects right now. It comes as no surprise to anyone who has driven on Queensland's longest highway—at 1,600 kilometres long—that more needs to be done. That is why we asked for \$617 million for Bruce Highway upgrades in the federal budget. We got zero. The Bruce Highway is our economic artery so it beggars belief that the Morrison-Joyce government has turned its nose up at our regional communities that rely on it.

We already know Scott Morrison cares less about Queensland flood victims because he gave them only \$1,000 payments compared to \$3,000 payments for flood victims in New South Wales, and he is yet to sign off on a disaster relief package for Queensland even now. We already know Scott Morrison is all spin and no delivery, with more than 80 per cent of this budget more than four years away for Queensland. If he thinks he can fool Queenslanders with his 'spruik now, pay later' scheme, then maybe he has something coming. Queenslanders can see through the smoke and mirrors.

If the federal government is not going to deliver for the Bruce Highway, we would think that it would chip in for the second Bruce Highway—the inland freight route. At the last federal budget, we heard that \$400 million would be committed to the inland freight route, but hidden in the detail was the fact that only \$75 million was in the forward estimates.

Mr Millar interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Gregory!

Mr BAILEY: Fast-forward to this year's federal budget. We heard an additional \$400 million would be committed to the project. Lo and behold, when we looked at the detail and the budget breakdown came through, we saw that \$233 million of their previous commitment will not be released for another four years. That is less than half of the 2021 federal government commitment and it is not available until 2026.

Mr Millar interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Gregory is warned under the standing orders.

Mr BAILEY: It is on the never-never. How can anyone trust Scott Morrison when he has reneged on his promises from the last election? There is no federal ICAC and yet we have had a state based standing royal commission here for 30 years.

Queensland cannot afford another three long years of the incompetent, deceitful Morrison government. We need a federal government that delivers. We need a federal government that gives Queensland its fair share. We need a federal government that takes responsibility and works with the states, including our state of Queensland.