



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Bailey**


**MEMBER FOR MILLER**

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Record of Proceedings, 18 August 2022

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### M1, Upgrade

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.55 am): Anyone who has driven the M1 between Brisbane and the Gold Coast knows it is Queensland's busiest stretch of highway, carrying up to 210,000 cars per day. That is why the Palaszczuk Labor government is making the M1 bigger, better and safer.

Since coming to office we have delivered: a \$74 million upgrade to the Coomera interchange at exit 54; a \$25 million upgrade to the Oxenford interchange at exit 57; the \$195 million upgrade to the M1-Gateway merge thanks to the advocacy of the energy minister; the \$218 million Mudgeeraba to Varsity Lakes upgrade; and we have another six upgrades underway to the tune of \$4 billion pouring into the M1. In fact, I was on the Gold Coast this morning, as the Premier mentioned, with the federal minister Catherine King breaking ground on the major upgrade at exit 49 at Pimpama. As one of Australia's—

**Mr Crandon** interjected.

**Mr Boothman:** How's the sign going?

**Mr BAILEY:** I can assure honourable members that we will not be ignoring the M1, as those opposite did. In one of Australia's fastest growing regions, this interchange upgrade will deliver double the capacity across the M1, new signalised intersections, longer and safer on and off ramps and better active transport connections. It is part of a \$213 million M1 interchange upgrade program delivering major improvements at exits 41, 45 and now 49.

We have also just completed works on the first section of the billion dollar Varsity Lakes to Tugun M1 upgrade. I opened the 2.3-kilometre section last Tuesday complete with three lanes each way and a new diverging diamond interchange at Burleigh Heads—

**Mr Hart:** Where was my invite? What happened to inviting the local member?

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Burleigh will cease his interjections.

**Mr BAILEY:**—and it is already easing congestion. There is clearly confusion opposite about actually doing something on the M1.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr BAILEY:** We can hear the confusion opposite. I am happy to clarify for them. We are pushing ahead with the 10-kilometre upgrade on the southern Gold Coast despite unprecedented rainfall and impacts on staff from COVID and flu and, I might add, 44,000 tonnes of illegally dumped asbestos that has been dealt with. The upgrade also includes a safe, connected cycleway. Master planning is currently also underway for a separated cycling corridor from Brisbane to the border, which Bicycle Queensland CEO, Rebecca Randazzo, labelled 'a win for tourism and a great step forward for bike riders'.

Of course, we are delivering the \$2.1 billion second M1 Coomera Connector, creating a second major connection between Logan and the Gold Coast and an alternative to the M1.

**Mr Crandon** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Coomera will cease his interjections.

**Mr BAILEY:** It was blocked by the previous government. It would only happen under this government.

**Mr Minnikin** interjected.

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

**Mr BAILEY:** We will not ignore the M1 or the Gold Coast as the previous government did. Only the Palaszczuk Labor government will deliver a better M1, an actual second M1, good jobs and better services for Queensland's great lifestyle.