




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 26 October 2022

MOTION

Rockhampton Ring Road

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (5.06 pm): I move—

That all words after 'Road' be omitted and the following inserted:

'and other transport infrastructure projects across Queensland as part of the Palaszczuk government's record \$29.7 billion Queensland transport and road investment plan and notes the federal Albanese government's budget which will deliver vital funding for Queensland including but not limited to \$2.1 billion in new transport infrastructure; and

notes the strong advocacy over many years of the members for Rockhampton and Keppel and all government members in their continued endeavours to stand up for Queensland's fair share of funding from the Commonwealth.'

Following the member for Chatsworth is like taking candy from a baby. His own side do not even back up his speech. When he tries comedy there is deathly silence because they are starting to see how incompetent and ineffective he is. The member was the assistant minister for public transport who cut Cross River Rail, who sent NGRs to be made overseas, who had new trains that were not disability compliant and who saw our train driver numbers cut by 48 drivers over three years. He has this level of incompetence and they make him the shadow minister for transport and main roads. Good luck. Let us hope he stays there for a while—at least until he loses his seat at the next election.

I am going to spend most of the time talking about the motion rather than just railing against the member for Chatsworth. The Palaszczuk government is committed to the project which is 80 per cent federally funded. Recently I joined the members for Rockhampton and Keppel in the northern suburbs to open the massive \$194 million upgrade of the Bruce Highway. The members for Rockhampton and Keppel have been beating down my door for seven and a half years to get projects funded and delivered. They did not cut like those opposite who spent three years just guarding the place.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr BAILEY: You ran from Townsville, mate. We know your record.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order! Through the chair.

Mr BAILEY: In the last financial year the Palaszczuk Labor government delivered \$411 million worth of transport and road infrastructure in the Fitzroy region. That was in one financial year. How does that compare to the last time the state LNP were in office? They spent less than \$400 million across the whole four years of the forward estimates. In one year we spent more than they would have in four years. That is our record.

The Rockhampton Northern Access Upgrade supported more than 250 local jobs. The member for Rockhampton drove the duplication of the Capricorn Highway, worth \$75 million and 187 local jobs. The Lawrie Street duplication, with another 56 jobs, is going well and the member for Rockhampton delivered that. The member for Keppel is delivering the upgrades on the Yeppoon to Rockhampton road, which was neglected by those opposite when they were in power. Our record is very strong. We

are one month away from completing the third package of works in a \$33 million Bruce Highway upgrade project from Neilsen Avenue to Plentiful Creek, supporting an average of 50 jobs. These members are delivering on roads in their local areas.

The federal budget confirmed more than \$250 million worth of Bruce Highway upgrades around Rockhampton and south of Rockhampton to Mount Larcom and Gladstone, plus \$250 million in new funding for the Bruce Highway between Rockhampton and Gladstone. There is no shortage of road projects in that region because of the hard work of our members for Rockhampton and Keppel. We do not cut, we build. We build infrastructure. That is what we do. We know that, whatever they say, when they get in power they cut, cut, cut. Whenever they get their hands on the Treasury it becomes like one of the horror *Game of Thrones* episodes. We all know what happens there and it is not a pretty sight.

We all know what the problem is here: the federal LNP government left us with the worst inflation in a generation, which has caused a huge increase in costs. It is a decision of the federal government. We are disappointed that it has had to be deferred, but we will keep investing in roads and we will keep backing Central Queensland. They can pretend all they like but we know that they are obsessed with the axe.

(Time expired)