



Speech By  
**Bryson Head**


**MEMBER FOR CALLIDE**

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Record of Proceedings, 9 May 2023

## ADJOURNMENT

### Regional Queensland, Road Infrastructure; Callide Electorate, Budget

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (7.06 pm): Isn't it great to be in regional Queensland for parliament? It is nice to see the government acknowledge—at least once—that there is in fact more to Queensland than the concrete jungle of the south-east. While Labor is here to put on a show, I will talk about a few things that will actually improve the lives of people in the bush. Firstly, how about delivering on promises instead of breaking them? Specifically, the Minister for Transport needs to deliver on a promise he made in June 2020 in relation to the Monto Mount Perry Road. The minister said—

The Palaszczuk government has just allocated \$8 million to seal the last 9.2 kilometres of dirt on this road.

Three years and \$26.6 million later, how much of this road do you think has been sealed? With 5.7 kilometres of gravel remaining, a meagre 3.5 kilometres has been sealed. A bridge is also yet to be upgraded. This is a budget blow-out beyond imagination but, frankly, with the record of this government, I am not surprised at all. I add that they closed this road for nearly two years to undertake these works. With hardly any traffic to manage and a work site to themselves, this government has stuffed around and failed to deliver on a clear promise made to the people of the North Burnett.

What does this mean? Patients from Monto, who have next to no local health services because of the failures of this government, must travel up a gravel road to access health services at Bundaberg. With Biloela and Gladstone maternity wards still on bypass, it remains a reality that mothers in labour may have to travel up this gravel road. I call on the Minister for Transport to deliver on this commitment and ensure the remaining road sealing is budgeted for and completed as soon as possible.

I also call on the government to deliver on other much needed infrastructure and services across Callide in its upcoming state budget, including but not limited to: improved heavy vehicle access to the Gladstone port; adequate parking for parents at Calliope State School; a CT scanner at Biloela; adequate maternity services at Gladstone, Chinchilla and Biloela; sufficient funding for local governments; more police resources across the electorate; widening and upgrades to the Mundubbera Durong Road, Maryborough-Biggenden Road, Leichhardt and Dawson highways; and sealing of the Gayndah Mount Perry Road. Paradise Dam must also be rebuilt with absolute priority. School halls remain without air conditioning, including at Calliope and Gin Gin, and many school tuckshops and toilet blocks also fail to meet health and safety standards. I call on the government to deliver these projects and please, on behalf of every taxpayer, deliver them on time and on budget.