




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 14 March 2023

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Bruce Highway

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.02 am): The Palaszczuk government is delivering a record \$18.1 billion worth of road and transport infrastructure projects in regional Queensland, supporting more than 16,000 good jobs. This record investment is headlined by our work on the Bruce Highway. Right now, 106 Bruce Highway projects are funded and underway, including 45 in construction, as part of a massive \$13 billion pipeline of joint funding locked in over the next 15 years. We have now completed 447 Bruce Highway upgrades since our election.

In recent weeks I have driven from Brisbane to Rockhampton on the Bruce Highway and the level of work is truly phenomenal. Heading north, stop one was the \$163 million Deception Bay Road interchange, championed by the members for Bancroft and Kurwongbah and on track to open in coming months. Stop two was straight onto the Caboolture-Bribie Island Road to Steve Irwin Way six-laning championed by the members for Pumicestone and Morayfield—with much more flood resilient bridges right along this extra capacity, including at King John Creek. Stop three was the recently completed Caloundra Road to Sunshine Motorway six-laning and the Mons Road and Maroochydore Road interchange upgrades—both championed by the members for Caloundra and Nicklin, and aren't they doing a great job!

Stop five was the \$1 billion Gympie Bypass project: 26 kilometres of new duplicated four-lane highway, cutting travel times between the Wide Bay and Sunshine Coast and knocking out one of the most flood-prone parts of the Bruce Highway—done and dusted. Look at the smile on the face of the member for Gympie! He is loving it. He is not saying anything, but he has a big smile. Stop six was at Tiaro where today I can announce a contract has been awarded to do the final design for the \$336 million Tiaro bypass championed by the member for Maryborough.

Mr Perrett interjected.

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

Mr BAILEY: He was smiling for a little while there! The design will be done by a joint venture of Arup and SMEC and be complete next year. Stop seven was the recently opened \$103 million upgrade at Saltwater Creek north of Maryborough, another flood resilient section, a project we completed one year early. Let me say that again: one year early! Stop eight was a \$10 million upgrade at Torbanlea, which I visited with the member for Maryborough and assistant minister, setting up the connection for the Queensland-made train manufacturing program. Stop nine was a huge package of works being delivered from Gin Gin to Benaraby, before a trip through the recently completed works at Mount Larcom, which I know the member for Gladstone is very pleased about. Stop 10 was the massive Rockhampton Ring Road where early works are getting underway—so strongly championed by the member for Rockhampton and the member for Keppel.

Our government has delivered more than 447 upgrades. How many have those opposite delivered? They delivered four when they were in power and two of those were studies. On the Bruce Highway the count is 447 to two. On that 600 kilometres of Bruce Highway I saw upgrade after upgrade after upgrade. It is not just that stretch that we are delivering upgrades on, of course. Today I can update the House that more than \$15 million worth of upgrade works at Clemant between Townsville and Ingham have been completed more than three months ahead of schedule.

Our thoughts are with those in Far North Western Queensland, in particular Burketown, which is experiencing devastating flooding right now as outlined by the Deputy Premier. To the people of the Far North West, Transport and Main Roads has been working hard on the ground and we are ready to assess the damage as the water goes down and to get repairs underway as soon as possible for the members of that community.