




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 16 March 2023

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

M1, Upgrade; North-West Queensland Floods, Roads

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (11.17 am): The M1 is the economic artery between Brisbane and the border, getting hundreds of thousands of Queenslanders home or to work every day, to holidays or to the beach on the weekends. We also know that Queensland is the place to be, with a decade of growth and infrastructure on the horizon and we have more people moving here than ever before. Population growth in turn is putting pressure on the M1. That is why the Palaszczuk Labor government is delivering a record level of investment into the M1 and also the second M1. All up, we will be delivering more than \$5 billion worth of upgrades over the next four years. I repeat: \$5 billion. This is headlined by the second M1, or the Coomera Connector, its official title, a brand new motorway secured by this government, funded by this government, that will deliver increased capacity between Gold Coast and Logan.

There is also the \$1 billion upgrade happening on the southern Gold Coast from Varsity Lakes to Tugun, with the first package between exits 85 and 87 already complete and open. This upgrade will six-lane the full M1 to Tugun, allowing more Queenslanders to use the M1, bigger interchanges, more capacity and a brand new active transport link. Then there is the \$1 billion Daisy Hill to Logan Motorway upgrade. It is the next stage after we have delivered the \$750 million upgrade currently being constructed from the Gateway Motorway to Springwood in the electorates of the Minister for Energy and the Attorney-General.

We have built and opened the \$218 million upgrade from Mudgeeraba to Varsity Lakes. We have built and completed upgrades to exits 45, 54 and 57, and the upgrade of exit 41 will be opening in the near future. I am happy to report that works are advancing well on the exit 49 interchange upgrade, doubling the capacity in these growth areas. There is a record level of investment is being poured into the M1 under the Palaszczuk Labor government. It is in stark contrast to the Newman government, which did not spend a single new dollar on the M1.

On a separate topic, I will update the House on the situation in the north-west of the state. The flooding event has seen road closures on the Flinders, Barkly and Landsborough highways, the Burke Developmental Road, Karumba Developmental Road and Gulf Developmental Road—in fact all gulf roads, including the Wills Developmental Road. I am glad to say that the Landsborough Highway is now open. We have stood up response crews from the Department of Transport and Main Roads, who have been working hard to keep the public safe up there, to start the extensive repair work that is needed. They will be assessing the damage and making repairs as quickly as they can as floodwaters recede. They are receding quite slowly, given the extent of the flooding and the flatness of the terrain.

My thoughts are with those who are experiencing this disaster in the north-west. Transport and Main Roads will certainly be there to help them. We will certainly be working with the member for Traeger to help his constituents as they recover from the situation.