




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 9 May 2023

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Far North Queensland, Maritime Industry

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.06 am): The Palaszczuk government has a strong record of creating jobs, better services and a great lifestyle. That is clearly evident here in Cairns and Far North Queensland. As outlined by the Treasurer, unemployment has been halved under this government. Yesterday I joined the Premier, Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for Training and Skills Development and the member for Cairns to announce another job-creating and skills development initiative which will support workers here on Queensland shores.

For the first time ever, as part of the Palaszczuk government's \$21 million Backing Queensland Maritime Jobs program a Certificate III in Maritime Operations (Integrated Rating) will be offered in Queensland—right here in Cairns! Queensland has the most ports in the nation, and we need locally trained mariners to bolster our supply chains. Mariners need the right qualifications and training to work on domestic or international vessels, and this course is a fundamental requirement to entering the maritime industry, ensuring that workers are properly trained to work on Australian and international vessels. Until now, new mariners entering the sector had to travel to Tasmania or Perth to undertake their training. This came at a significant cost to workers and maritime business operators. Now, thanks to the Australian Navy and the Australian maritime union, Queensland has its own lifeboat and supporting davit, both essential pieces of equipment to deliver that training. I thank them both for their contributions in that regard. QBuild will install the davit at the Maritime Safety Queensland base at Cairns wharf, and a certificate III training module will also be developed and delivered here in Cairns at the Great Barrier Reef International Marine College. This is a great collaboration between TAFE Queensland and Transport and Main Roads' Maritime Safety Queensland division.

I am pleased to report to the House that a total of 32 training packages under the Maritime Training Grant program have already been approved statewide, seven within the Cairns maritime region. This funding provides support for young mariners to enhance their skills by undertaking specific maritime training where skills gaps and shortages have been identified in the industry. I would like to thank the Queensland branch of the Maritime Union of Australia, industry members and the department on working collaboratively to identify the skills that are needed to support our maritime industry. This job-creating, skills-boosting initiative will be a \$21 million investment to create 40 new sustainable maritime jobs and bolster our maritime industry and supply chain here in Cairns and Far North Queensland.