




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 25 May 2023

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Electric Vehicles

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services) (10.29 am): The Palaszczuk government is delivering full employment, better services, a modern economy and action on climate change right here in Queensland. As part of our lifestyle, Queenslanders love to take a road trip. Whether it is to drive to one of our beautiful beaches, our mountains or our picturesque regions of the cape, Queenslanders get around, so every day we see more and more Queenslanders making the switch to an electric vehicle.

A couple of weeks ago Queensland reached a record 20,000 electric vehicles on Queensland roads. Today I can report that we have now passed 21,000 electric vehicles only a couple of weeks later, so the momentum is there. We know transport is responsible for 14 per cent of Queensland's carbon emissions. One way we will cut emissions is to bolster reliable and available EV charging infrastructure no matter where you live in this state, and stages 1, 2 and 3 of the Queensland electric vehicle superhighway have done exactly that. Stage 3 is now advanced and is delivering 18 sites across rural and regional Queensland, making it a true regional connector and investment. This investment will create more tourism travel and economic opportunities across the state.

Mr Hart interjected.

Mr BAILEY: I hear the member for Burleigh backing me in there. Isn't that wonderful? Since the first Queensland electric vehicle superhighway site opened in 2017, over 106,000 Queensland electric vehicle charging sessions have occurred to date. This has saved between 2,421 and 2,841 tonnes of CO2 emissions.

As momentum grows and more people want to make the switch, we need to make sure that the infrastructure keeps up with the pace as it exponentially increases. That is why today I am happy to announce—

Mr Crandon interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order, member for Coomera!

Mr BAILEY: Some of us will join the 21st century eventually. This is why today I am happy to announce—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order, members! You have the call, Minister.

Mr BAILEY: I am trying to get an announcement out about electric vehicles here, Mr Acting Speaker, but there is a lot of opposition to it. This is why today I am happy to announce the successful candidates of our \$10 million electric vehicle co-contribution fund as part of acting on climate change. We will partner with RACQ, NRMA, Tesla, Evie Networks and Engie to build 44 new charging stations across regional Queensland. This co-fund will bring the joint—

Mr Lister interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order, member for Southern Downs!

Mr BAILEY: I know the regional members within the Palaszczuk government support this all the way. This co-fund will bring the total joint investment to \$24½ million, which is the single biggest investment in EV charging in Queensland history. Feedback from electric vehicle owners is that they would like to see more fast chargers integrated into the network, and that is exactly what this package will deliver. The new locations will deliver fast and superfast charging units that range between 75 and 250 kilowatts. Every site allows for multiple electric vehicles to fast charge at the same time which will improve queueing times and improve accessibility for all users. Once completed, this will almost double our current network where the publicly owned Queensland electric vehicle superhighway has done the hard, early yards in terms of getting a network up and bring the overall total to 99 across Queensland.

The construction of these electric vehicle charging sites will kick off in the coming months and they are expected to be fully operational by next year. There are too many locations for me to run through today, but I would encourage those who are interested to jump on the TMR website to find out more and watch this space, because I will have pleasure in announcing them as we progress. Infrastructure has a huge role to play in breaking down barriers like range anxiety and will encourage more people to make the switch. Cleaner transport means that we will have quieter streets, less emissions, more acting on climate change and reducing running costs, creating jobs, boosting tourism and our local economy. It is sad to hear the level of interjections on a matter of a modern economy. It is something that every MP in this place should support. This government will lead in the new economy on renewable energy and on new technology and will not be stopped by the Neanderthals on the other side.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Minister, you have used unparliamentary language. I would ask you to withdraw.

Mr BAILEY: I withdraw.