




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 13 September 2023

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Manufacturing, Buses

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services) (9.55 am): We need to make more things here in Queensland. The Palaszczuk Labor government backs our manufacturing industry and its skilled workers. That is why we are backing our manufacturing industry with a \$134 million initial investment in 200 Queensland-made buses. Like our Queensland-made trains—

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Clayfield and member for Chatsworth.

Mr BAILEY:—these new Queensland-made buses will be built by Queenslanders for Queenslanders.

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Treasurer, your interjections are not helping. Member for Clayfield, you are warned under the standing orders. I did try to caution you.

Mr BAILEY: When we came to government, manufacturing industry support was cut and jobs and contracts were sent overseas. This Premier and this government have turned that around. The manufacturing industry is growing and now employs more than 180,000 Queenslanders. Our new Queensland-made bus procurement, announced today, will support more than 100 Queensland manufacturing jobs right here in Brisbane. We are backing workers in the bus manufacturing sector. It will also provide further benefits down the manufacturing supply chain.

It was this Palaszczuk Labor government that brought train manufacturing back to Maryborough, and it is this Labor government that is boosting bus manufacturing right here in our state. These lower emission buses will also keep our rail passengers moving while the big build on our rail network progresses. The buses will be publicly owned to boost the rail replacement fleet, given the significant rail infrastructure works underway as part of our rail revolution. We currently rely on contracted bus services to support passengers during track and station closures for accessibility and general upgrades. Queensland-made publicly owned busses will provide additional capacity to ensure public transport users can get to where they need to go.

The new order will start with buses that meet the Euro 6 emission standard to help meet demand, with later buses transitioning to zero-emission buses. The new locally made buses using Euro 6 technology—

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr BAILEY: Those opposite do not support manufacturing here in our state. It is very sad.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members!

Mr BAILEY: They have learned nothing—absolutely nothing. The new locally made buses using Euro 6 technology can achieve—

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr BAILEY: The Leader of the Opposition interjects and he sent the trains overseas to be made. That is his record. The new locally made buses, using Euro 6 technology, can achieve 83 per cent fewer emissions than the existing diesel bus fleet. Transport and Main Roads and its partners are currently developing the required infrastructure to support charging capabilities for zero-emission buses at depots across South-East Queensland. When this zero-emission supporting infrastructure is ready, this order will transition to zero-emission buses, supporting our renewable transport revolution. We will also be able to use these lower emission buses to modernise the fleet in our regions and reduce emissions, while zero-emission infrastructure continues to be developed in regional Queensland. The newer low-emission Queensland-made buses will be accessible to ensure all passengers have access to public transport, including people who use a wheelchair, people with luggage, parents with prams and, of course, our senior citizens.

We also know that the Brisbane City Council has a need for more buses in the short term. We have extended an offer to council to be part of this procurement, because we want to see more Queensland-made buses on our roads. The procurement approach for the new buses is currently being finalised by the Department of Transport and Main Roads. I look forward to seeing our bus manufacturing industry benefit from the Palaszczuk government's big bus build. Whether it is trains in Maryborough or buses in Brisbane, they are better when they are made in Queensland.