



Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 11 October 2023

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Road and Transport Infrastructure

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services) (10.01 am): Queensland is larger in size than 180 countries with only 15 nations larger than us. We are a big state and everyone across Queensland will benefit from the Palaszczuk government's Big Build. That is something to aspire to. We have delivered another record QTRIP with \$32.1 billion to be invested over the next four years on priority infrastructure across the state, nearly double the last Newman government cuts budget. We are investing more than \$18 billion—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BAILEY: We hear more whingeing and whining from those opposite. They cannot help themselves. We are investing more than \$18 billion outside the metropolitan region, supporting 14,850 direct jobs in regional Queensland. That is why the Palaszczuk Labor government Big Build invests in our regions with major projects like the billion dollar Gympie bypass, the \$280 million Townsville Ring Road, the \$187 million Walkerston bypass, the \$1 billion Rockhampton Ring Road and the \$300 million Cairns Western Arterial Road to name a few. There is also our package in Cape York sealing the Peninsula Developmental Road. We have also invested \$76 million this financial year in the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme, the TIDS project, which increases our commitment to work with local governments on regional roads and transport networks.

A key feature of our Big Build is the Palaszczuk government's continued investment in the Bruce Highway, the economic backbone of regional Queensland. We are co-investing \$13 billion over a 15-year period to upgrade the Bruce with 459 projects delivered along the big Bruce, and the work will not stop there.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BAILEY: I am advised more than 80 projects are currently underway compared to four when you were in power—

Mr SPEAKER: Direct your comments through the chair, member.

Mr BAILEY: I do not even need two hands to count them. I only need one hand when it comes to the Newman government, but I digress. Those 80 projects underway include the Killymoon Creek to Townsville Port Road intersection, the Bowen Connection Road to Champion Street intersection, the six-laning of the Bruce Highway from the Bribie turn-off to Steve Irwin Way—nearly done—and significant upgrades on the Caboolture-Bribie Island Road. There is no pruning there.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Chatsworth will cease his interjections.

Mr BAILEY: Of course the Palaszczuk government's Big Build backs Australia's sixth largest city, the Gold Coast, with \$5.5 billion allocated in QTRIP for the south coast over the next four years. This includes the continued delivery of major projects such as the \$2.1 billion second M1 Coomera Connector and the \$1.2 billion Gold Coast Light Rail stage 3 from Burleigh to Broadbeach, right near my old school, good old Broadbeach State School. Bless them.

I am pleased to announce that the Logan and Gold Coast Faster Rail project is taking more exciting steps forward with three major packages of work moving to the next phase of procurement. Once finalised, this double track duplication and removal of five level crossings will mean more frequent and reliable train services between Brisbane, Logan and the Gold Coast as well as better amenity for all those local communities.

The Palaszczuk government Big Build will also deliver a new fleet of 65 new trains built in Queensland by Queenslanders for Queenslanders, manufactured and constructed at a purpose-built manufacturing facility at Torbanlea near Maryborough by local workers. It is not just the Maryborough region that will benefit; there will be new stabling yards at Ormeau and flow-on benefits for Logan and Gold Coast workers as well as Queensland manufacturers, suppliers and contractors across the state. The Queensland made Train Manufacturing Program will provide well-paid advanced rail manufacturing jobs for hundreds of Queenslanders for the next 35 years. There is no policy-free zone here.

The Palaszczuk government Big Build continues to deliver for Queenslanders with Cross River Rail unlocking the rail bottleneck and revolutionising the South-East Queensland rail network, including the Sunshine Coast rail duplication and doing the hard yards on the direct line to the Sunshine Coast in partnership with the Albanese Labor government. Queenslanders need a state government that will keep building the infrastructure that a booming Queensland population needs—

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Chatsworth, you are warned under the standing orders.

Mr BAILEY:—not cuts, not sacking, not selling and not sending manufacturing jobs overseas again. It takes a Labor government to build, and that is what we are going to continue to do.