



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Bailey**


**MEMBER FOR MILLER**

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Record of Proceedings, 14 November 2023

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Federal Labor Government, Infrastructure Funding

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services) (9.52 am): Since we were first elected in 2015, the Palaszczuk government has been doing the heavy lifting when it comes to infrastructure investment in Queensland. This includes eight record Queensland transport and road infrastructure programs that show a rolling program of investment across the state nearly double the last ‘cuts’ budget of the Newman government. Queensland’s road and transport infrastructure program is strategic and responsible and responds to population growth that exceeds the national average. The Palaszczuk Labor government has committed full funding to making trains in Maryborough, the Cross River Rail project and several major projects that are well advanced in the planning stages like—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Sorry, Minister. Member for Warrego, member for Gympie and member for Chatsworth, you are warned under the standing orders. I can do this all day.

**Mr BAILEY:** We have committed full funding to making trains in Maryborough, the Cross River Rail project and several major projects that are well advanced in the planning stages such as the Logan and Gold Coast Faster Rail, which is in detailed design and early stages of procurement. However, Queensland has already been subject to more infrastructure cuts from the federal government than other jurisdictions.

I am very concerned to read reports today that the federal government plans to walk away from 80-20 funding on regional transport infrastructure. We have strongly urged the Albanese government to remain committed to these principles when responding to the review; to ensure that regional and South-East Queensland are no worse off; to maintain existing funding arrangements on corridors of national significance; to quarantine Brisbane’s 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games related investment and across the state from deferral or cancellation; and to ensure Queensland receives its fair share of funding, noting existing population share, current and future forecast growth and historical underfunding in rail infrastructure.

Queensland is Australia’s fastest growing, most decentralised state with the largest road network of any jurisdiction. The economic contribution from regional Queensland through the resources sector alone is \$27.5 billion annually. Seventy per cent of all resources jobs are in regional areas, and these regions rely on transport infrastructure for commerce, connectivity, access and productivity. Any deviation from the currently agreed 80-20 funding split on regional corridors and 50-50 on urban corridors will significantly disadvantage our regions, which are amongst the most decentralised and road transport reliant in the nation. We are the only state with the majority of our population in regional areas. It is crucial that these investments continue so that Queensland supports our booming population and decentralised economy and is ready to support substantial transport tasks for the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2032.