




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Infrastructure

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure) (10.11 am): Queensland is booming. Our unemployment is low and our economy is strong. We are experiencing significant population growth. People are moving here in droves to experience our great Queensland lifestyle and to work in the jobs of the future here, all while the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games are set to put the Sunshine State onto the global stage. That is why the Palaszczuk government has committed to Queensland's Big Build—the biggest infrastructure investment in our state's history. We need to build more and better infrastructure to keep up with this growth. The Australian government's strategic infrastructure review and the Queensland LNP's plans for infrastructure cuts could put all of this at risk. Queensland already—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members! Member for Kawana, cease holding those documents up.

Dr MILES: Queensland already experiences extraordinary population growth which is projected to continue. Infrastructure investment is vital to accommodate this growth and to support Queensland's new and emerging industries. Every single infrastructure project in our infrastructure pipeline is needed. The roads, rail, hospitals, schools, community and sporting infrastructure are all part of our plan to ensure Queenslanders have the infrastructure they need. This is critical funding for the infrastructure that Queensland needs to ensure Queensland's ongoing prosperity, improved productivity and enhanced livability.

Queensland's rapid growth and decentralised population makes road infrastructure projects like the Bruce Highway upgrades vital. The Bruce Highway is the single most important national highway in the country. It is a crucial transport route, serving as the major north-south freight and commuter corridor, connecting our coastal population centres from Brisbane to Cairns over a total length of 1,673 kilometres. It plays a vital role in the National Land Transport Network, linking west-east freight networks, connecting the resource sector, inland agriculture production areas and coastal ports while also serving as a major tourism route. Cutting funding for upgrades to vital infrastructure like the Bruce Highway would impact our national productivity, our local economic prosperity and road safety.

As the Premier said yesterday, I will be taking a delegation of Queensland mayors to Canberra to meet with Catherine King to ensure Queensland is not worse off. Last night, the Queensland Farmers' Federation asked the Premier if they could join the delegation. That is how critical road funding is to the Queensland economy. I am pleased that the Premier has agreed to expand the delegation to include important industries such as agriculture and road freight.