




Speech By
Hon. Bart Mellish

MEMBER FOR ASPLEY

Record of Proceedings, 15 February 2024

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Road and Transport Infrastructure

 **Hon. BJ MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services) (10.22 am): There is over \$32 billion in QTRIP supporting over 25,000 jobs across the life of the program. In addition, we have the fantastic Cross River Rail project which will transform the way we travel across South-East Queensland, supporting 3,400 workers.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Chatsworth.

Mr MELLISH: Disgraceful. This is not a laughing matter and nothing is more important than ensuring every worker goes home safely to their family every day. The Miles government has a strong safety record on all of our construction projects, but we must never become complacent. We expect all contractors to actively reduce the risk—

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Chatsworth, you will cease your interjections. There is enough noise outside without having more noise inside.

Mr MELLISH: We expect all contractors to actively reduce the risk of any incidents happening on site. I have made it clear to the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority, Queensland Rail and Transport and Main Roads that I expect the highest safety standards to be upheld. Queensland has experienced extreme weather this summer, including heatwave conditions during some periods. In relation to Cross River Rail, heat is managed on site every day. Workers are reminded daily that there are shade shelters, air-conditioned crib rooms, chilled water and heat monitors available on site. Our massive Big Build could not happen without a strong workforce and a strong record on project safety. This government will always prioritise worker safety and I will be reiterating to our agencies and our contractors that this must be their No. 1 priority.