



Speech By  
**Hon. Bart Mellish**

**MEMBER FOR ASPLEY**

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Record of Proceedings, 16 April 2024

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Public Transport, Emissions Reduction**

 **Hon. BJ MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services) (10.07 am): Jump on board our big bus build. In February I joined the Premier, the Deputy Premier, the Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union and bus operators to announce that we will procure and locally manufacture 400 zero-emission buses in Queensland. This is the single biggest investment in a bus fleet in Queensland's history. Transport emissions in Queensland alone make up 17 per cent of total emissions. This is why we need to act—and act fast. This is exactly what the Miles government is doing.

Our energy transition will not only reduce our transport emissions but also support good quality Queensland jobs along the way. The Department of Transport will partner with the Queensland Investment Corporation to deliver the program. Local bus manufacturing will be boosted through local content requirements that will see the creation of direct and indirect jobs. Local opportunities will be created for small and medium businesses within the broader supply chain.

Bus depots will also go green, with new zero-emission depots to be built and existing depots to be transitioned. Investigations are underway at Toowong and Sherwood in partnership with Brisbane City Council. TransLink already has 75 zero-emission buses being trialled at eight depots across Queensland to help inform the design of zero-emission buses and depots from 2025. Our bus program will deliver cleaner and quieter neighbourhoods across Queensland. We know that Queensland has the capacity to manufacture world-leading products. Whether it is trains or buses, we will make them right here in Queensland, by Queenslanders, for Queenslanders.

It is no secret that projects not only in Australia but also around the world are facing cost pressures. Managing cost increases for our Big Build transport infrastructure delivering across the state is challenging but necessary. Since commencing as the minister, I have asked my director-general to undertake work to improve TMR's delivery of major infrastructure projects and to better manage projects on behalf of taxpayers.

The director-general has commissioned Rodd Staples, an acknowledged leading Australian infrastructure expert, to undertake a review of how TMR manages its projects. Mr Staples has held senior executive roles in Transport for New South Wales for nine years, culminating as secretary of the department until 2021. His review is considering how TMR can better manage costs through the project lifecycle and key risks such as PFAS and environmental approvals. TMR deliver thousands of projects across our state, and we want to make sure Queenslanders are getting great value for money whilst we are also delivering the modernised infrastructure program a growing state needs.