



Speech By
Hon. Bart Mellish

MEMBER FOR ASPLEY

Record of Proceedings, 14 June 2024

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Transport Infrastructure

 **Hon. BJ MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services) (10.00 am): We know that congestion is being felt by Queenslanders especially during peak hours. With over 229,000 more daily trips on our roads, trains, buses and active networks over the last five years, it is no wonder. That is why the Miles government is delivering on our record \$37.4 billion transport big build. As part of this, we are delivering \$22 billion in road congestion projects across Queensland including the Rockhampton Ring Road, the Second M1 or Coomera Connector, the Gympie Bypass and M1 Varsity Lakes to Tugun. We announced we are proceeding with the Gympie Road bypass tunnel. Northsiders know that Gympie Road needs a solution, and this tunnel from Kedron to Carseldine will help take 40,000 cars off this local road.

It is not just roads that the Miles Labor government is investing in, with more than \$14 billion committed to rail infrastructure alone over the next four years. There is Logan and Gold Coast Faster Rail, which will deliver two extra tracks between Kuraby and Beenleigh, increasing the number and frequency of train services. This also includes nine rebuilt stations and the removal of five level crossings, reducing delays and easing congestion on the roads. There is also Direct Sunshine Coast Rail which will bust congestion, saving commuters at least 45 minutes each way between Brisbane and Caloundra. The Sunshine Coast already has the second highest car ownership rate in the country. The Leader of the Opposition thinks this project is a joke. They never committed any real money to it. They have a \$6 billion black hole. Without our investment in Direct Sunshine Coast Rail, there would be an extra 800,000 trips a day on Sunshine Coast roads by 2041. Then there is Cross River Rail, a second river crossing which will funnel up to 24 trains an hour through twin tunnels. This is real infrastructure that people can rely on to deliver real results.

We are also investing in our bus network. In this year's budget we announced bus network upgrades that will deliver thousands of new weekly services for our fast-growing communities of Logan and Ipswich. This \$70 million initial investment through the Bus Services Investment Program—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Pine Rivers and member for Chatsworth, you are both warned under the standing orders.

Mr MELLISH: This \$70 million initial investment through the Bus Services Investment Program is aimed at improving community travel options through investment in new bus services and new bus stop infrastructure. These upgrades will target Queensland communities experiencing significant population growth and will introduce bus services to many areas for the very first time. Ipswich and Logan residents will see significant investment in their regions with a number of new services set for introduction. We are tackling congestion while helping to ease cost-of-living pressures on Queensland families.