



Speech By  
**Hon. Bart Mellish**


**MEMBER FOR ASPLEY**

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Record of Proceedings, 11 September 2024

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Road Safety

 **Hon. BJ MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services) (9.57 am): The period 26 to 30 August was Queensland Road Safety Week, and it was a terrible week on our roads. My heart goes out to everyone impacted by these recent incidents, including the broader community, first responders, drivers and, of course, family, friends and loved ones. Road Safety Week highlights the role we all play in keeping people safe on our roads.

I welcome the advocacy of RACQ, the Queensland Trucking Association, the *Courier-Mail* and other media outlets and many other stakeholders for their work in keeping our roads safer and, in particular, for a return to 80-20 funding for the Bruce Highway. A return to 80-20 would double the investment in the Bruce Highway. It is unacceptable for the federal government to reduce the funding ratio from 80-20 to 50-50 for the regional sections of this critical national highway and we will continue to fight against this move.

The Miles government has committed to providing AusRAP data to the Australian government from 2025 onwards. We are one of the first states to do so. We are committed to improving these star ratings.

In June this year we released the 15-year vision and action plans for the Bruce Highway and the Safer Bruce 2030 Action Plan. This is the work of the independent Bruce Highway Trust Advisory Council, which included input and agreement from important stakeholders like the Queensland Trucking Association and the RACQ. Our plan for the next 15 years on the Bruce includes three five-year rolling action plans, plus the Safer Bruce 2030 Action Plan which outlines real upgrades to guide our future investment—unlike the fake promise of \$30 billion for the Bruce Highway from the member for Nanango. Queenslanders will never forget the member for Nanango's Bruce Highway hoax.

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Nanango will cease her interjections.

**Mr MELLISH:** We have \$6 billion in funded commitments along the Bruce Highway. Building on an already strong record, in this term of government alone the Miles government has delivered 98 projects worth over \$4.6 billion.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The minister is a low talker. I do not want anyone wearing a puffy shirt in this place as a result. I am having great difficulty hearing the minister's contribution and he should be heard. Cease the interjections members, or I will start naming you and sending you out of the chamber immediately.

**Mr MELLISH:** Some of the key outcomes of major road projects delivered include: more than 250 kilometres of wide centreline treatments; 100 new overtaking lanes; 60-plus new and upgraded rest areas; and over 500 kilometres of roadside safety barriers; however, if there is more to do, the Miles government will always do what matters for Queenslanders.

In 2020, the LNP claimed it would cost \$30 billion to dual-lane the Bruce, for which they have allocated only \$30 million. Let us never forget that they sacked over 2,000 TMR staff when they were last in power, including over 700 RoadTek staff. The cost of delivering infrastructure has significantly increased since then, impacting the supply chain and construction costs. This has been experienced in major projects the world over. Regardless, dual-laning the Bruce will simply not be possible without a return to 80-20 funding arrangements with the Australian government.

I am pleased to advise the House that I have accepted an invitation to be part of the Australian Livestock & Rural Transporters Association and Livestock and Rural Transporters Association of Queensland 'Ride Along' campaign focusing on road safety in Queensland. I will be travelling to Central Queensland in the coming weeks. This is a region I have visited six or seven times since becoming minister. I am also pleased to advise the House—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members!

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Kawana you are warned under the standing orders.

**Mr MELLISH:** I am pleased to advise the House that, commencing this week, the Miles government's remote freight subsidy scheme will increase to 20 per cent to provide cost-of-living relief for Queenslanders in remote and regional communities in the Far North. I thank the member for Cook for her strong and persistent advocacy on this issue.

I would also like to acknowledge the receipt of a petition from the residents of Elements Retirement Living to improve public transport for their community. I thank the member for Springwood for bringing it to my attention. I have asked my department to investigate options with the residents. The Miles government will always prioritise the projects and initiatives that matter to Queenslanders.