




Speech By
Hon. Brent Mickelberg

MEMBER FOR BUDERIM

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Warrego Highway, Road Infrastructure; Road Safety

 **Hon. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.14 am): Early Friday morning the residents of North Tivoli and Chuwar were awoken to an almighty bang as an oversized load hit the Mount Crosby Road bridge over the Warrego Highway. While it is fortunate that we did not have any injuries or fatalities, the incident did cause significant damage both to the bridge and to the pavement of the Warrego Highway. This required the full closure of the Warrego Highway westbound, as well as Mount Crosby Road at the site of the incident.

I want to take this moment to acknowledge the efforts of all involved in the work done to date to reopen roads. The response required the coordination and cooperation of many agencies including the Queensland police, RoadTek, TMR contractors and our team of Transport and Main Roads engineers. Due to the hard work of all involved, the Warrego Highway westbound reopened at 6.15 pm on Sunday—ready for the Monday morning peak hour.

I am pleased to advise that one of the northbound lanes of the bridge was also reopened this morning at around 4.30 am. It was initially anticipated that this milestone would not be reached until the end of the week, so I thank all involved in the early delivery. The damage, however, is extensive, and careful consideration of repair options will need to be completed. I want to reassure local residents and other road users that we are working as quickly as possible, but I do ask for their patience as that work is completed.

I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge that last week was National Road Safety Week. Tragically, as of Sunday, 100 lives have been lost on Queensland roads this year. That is a statistic that we most certainly do not want to have here in Queensland. Every single life lost on our roads tears apart a family and a community. Each road fatality has an impact across Queensland and leaves lifelong devastation. It is something we must stop.

The Crisafulli government is getting on with the job of making our roads safer. Every Queenslanders must reflect on our driving habits and the importance of driving safely on the road. It is a chance for us all to ensure that each journey is a safe one and that we make it home. We need all drivers to take accountability and to make safe decisions on our roads. Let's work together to make our roads a safer place for everyone. The Crisafulli government's focus remains on ending Labor's decade of inaction and on ensuring the safety of all road users, maintaining vital freight movements and ensuring our local commuters can get to their destinations at the end of a long work day.