




Speech By
Hon. Brent Mickelberg

MEMBER FOR BUDERIM

Record of Proceedings, 24 June 2025

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Road and Rail Infrastructure

 **Hon. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.01 am): The Crisafulli government is getting on with the job of delivering the rail and road infrastructure needed for a growing state—infrastructure that those opposite could not deliver. The best example is of course the Bruce Highway. When federal Labor scrapped the longstanding 80-20 arrangements to fund major roads like the Bruce Highway, those opposite put up their hands and said, ‘Oh well,’ and they sided with their Labor mates instead of standing up for Queenslanders.

We on this side knew the implications of Labor’s decision. In simple terms, it meant less wide centre line treatments, fewer rest stops, fewer overtaking lanes and a massive lost opportunity to save lives on the Bruce Highway. That is why the Crisafulli government continued to fight for 80-20 funding. We have succeeded, and we are now getting on with the job of building a better Bruce Highway.

We succeeded in securing a \$9 billion Bruce Highway Targeted Safety Program, and work has already begun on many projects up and down the Bruce Highway. Last week I visited a worksite at Bauple, where work is already well underway. The program will deliver wide centre line treatments, intersection upgrades, improved rest areas and overtaking lanes on priority sections of the Bruce Highway all north of Gympie to improve safety and to reduce the time this vital link is closed due to accidents.

The Mooloolah River Interchange in my community on the Sunshine Coast has also been needed for many years.

Mr Bleijie: And mine!

Mr MICKELBERG: I take the interjection from the Deputy Premier—and his and the member for Maroochydore and the rest of us on the Sunshine Coast—but it was never properly funded or progressed under the former Labor government. It was neglected so much that in late 2023 the federal Labor government withdrew its funding commitment towards the Mooloolah River Interchange, and the former government allowed it to happen.

Our government sees the Mooloolah River Interchange as a priority. Just yesterday I announced, alongside the member for Maroochydore, that funding would flow for early works on the MRI under our government, just as we said we would do. This is a project that all of my LNP Sunshine Coast colleagues have campaigned to deliver for as long as I have been in the parliament and, for those who have been here longer than me, a long time before that as well. The reason we campaigned for it is that we understand how important this road upgrade is for the people of the Sunshine Coast, and we will deliver it.

Further south, Logan and Gold Coast Faster Rail blew out by more than double under Labor because they simply could not manage the project. We are now stepping in, and funding will also flow this year for design and preconstruction work. Labor gave up on the replacement of the Barron River on the Kennedy Highway between Cairns and Mareeba. We will deliver a safer, stronger and more dependable connectivity for residents, businesses and freight operators in Far North Queensland.

I announced last week that the Crisafulli government would match the federal government's contribution to \$245 million, and it is in this budget. That is my commitment. That is the Crisafulli government's commitment to the people in the Far North. I could go on because there are dozens more examples like this—examples where the former Labor government gave up and left much needed transport priorities on life support and they left Queenslanders wondering.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I rise in relation to your ruling this morning. The Deputy Premier, the Minister for Education, the Attorney and now the Minister for Transport have all cynically and systematically ignored your ruling that you made in relation to the intent of ministerial statements. I ask you to instruct them accordingly. The opposition attends to hear about government policy, not personal and political attacks.

Mr SPEAKER: You have made your point. I outlined in my statement that I did not want personal attacks. I do not believe you have committed any personal attacks. You have been focusing on your policy, but I would ask you to focus on your policy specifically.

Mr MICKELBERG: They will not be left wondering under this government because we are getting on with the job. Queenslanders voted for a fresh start, and that is just what the Crisafulli government is delivering.