



Speech By
Hon. Brent Mickelberg

MEMBER FOR BUDERIM

Record of Proceedings, 28 October 2025

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Bruce Highway

 **Hon. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.08 am): The Crisafulli government is delivering a safer, more reliable Bruce Highway backed by a \$9 billion investment secured on an 80-20 funding deal that puts Queenslanders first. We are getting on with the job of fixing the Bruce. Sixteen priority safety projects are already underway or complete and we are not slowing down anytime soon. We are delivering a safer, reliable and more efficient highway for Queensland's future.

One of the first tasks the Premier assigned me was to ensure we held the federal Labor government to account on the 80-20 funding split we should have been getting for our state's key roads. The former government had abandoned such an arrangement in favour of a significantly worse 50-50 deal that meant less funds for Queensland roads to be fixed, maintained and improved. In the past year, we have not only been able to restore the 80-20 split on the spine of Queensland's road network, the Bruce Highway; we have also been able to secure a \$9 billion joint investment to uplift that highway right up and down that key route. Four priority projects have already been completed with another 10 under construction, and the last two of the 16 will commence construction in coming weeks.

In North Queensland, we have seen pavement upgrades at Alligator Creek and Hencamp Creek and a third location at Toomulla is also about to be completed. Early works are also underway between Dean Road and Tully High School, with main construction to follow shortly. Those projects are not just important for the people of the Burdekin and Hinchinbrook, where they are located; it is a win for everyone in northern Queensland who relies on the Bruce Highway for the delivery of goods to supermarkets or the movement of produce to markets further south.

Residents in Maryborough and Gympie are very excited about important safety upgrades underway at Bauple, north of Gympie. Heading a little further north, they will also benefit from an upgrade to the Barton Road intersection between Gin Gin and Benaraby. A new all-vehicle rest area at Curra and an upgrade to an existing rest area at Granite Creek are also on the cards. However, this is just the start as we get into a rolling program of works to continue well into the coming years. Design work and pre-construction activities are already underway for the next lot of projects coming through the program.

As minister, I have made a point of driving as much of the Bruce Highway as I could over the past year. I had been driving up and down the highway long before I was a minister or a member of parliament. In fact, I have lived in Rockhampton, Cairns, Mackay and Townsville and I know that the Bruce Highway does not stop at Noosa, which is why every dollar of our \$9 billion investment will be spent north of Gympie. I want regional Queenslanders—those who, day in and day out, rely on the Bruce to get them to work, to get their kids to school and to get their goods and produce to market—to know that they can rely on the Crisafulli government to back them and to get on with the job. They can

rely on the Crisafulli government to bring the Bruce back to a standard that they expect and frankly deserve but that has been missing after a decade of decline under Labor. After a decade of decline under Labor, the Crisafulli government is getting on with the job of fixing the Bruce and delivering for every Queenslander.