




Speech By
Hon. Brent Mickelberg

MEMBER FOR BUDERIM

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Beef Industry, Road Infrastructure

 **Hon. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.49 am): The Queensland Beef Corridors initiative began as an advocacy campaign between seven Central and Western Queensland mayors, representing critical industry stakeholders and primary producers and an area about the same size as Great Britain. The Crisafulli government believes strongly in supporting our rural and regional road network and backing in our primary industries. It is why, before the last election, we made an election commitment to deliver the \$100 million Country Roads Connect program, which is now funding 22 critical sealing projects right across the state. We are looking to build on that record now by investing in key road upgrades to support the beef industry, jointly with the Australian government. We want our beef producers to have faster access to markets and stronger supply chains, delivering more jobs and more economic activity right across the state.

Today I am pleased to announce that construction on the first of five projects in the \$47.5 million early works package is underway. It will pave and seal a priority section of the Clermont-Alpha Road in the Gregory electorate. I want to acknowledge the member for Gregory's advocacy not just for the beef industry but for the entirety of Central and Western Queensland. This first project, approximately 89 kilometres north of Alpha, is one of two locations on the Clermont-Alpha Road that will benefit from the \$500 million joint Australian-Queensland government investment which was locked into the budget and published in QTRIP and will improve key beef freight corridors in Central Queensland.

In addition to the Clermont-Alpha Road project, the early works package includes widening floodways and paving and sealing sections of Alpha-Tambo Road, the Fitzroy Developmental Road between Bauhinia and Duaringa, and May Downs Road. I want to acknowledge the member for Mirani, who has been a tireless advocate to upgrade the May Downs Road in particular. The broader program aims to enhance the Central Queensland beef supply chain while supporting development of the sector and will improve safety across the network and boost freight transport efficiency.

I say to our beef producers and I say to Central Queenslanders: you are looking at a government that wants to see you succeed. We want to ensure you can transport stock to market safely and efficiently, and we want to ensure the Central Queensland road network will receive the due care and attention that reflects the importance of the beef industry to Queensland. As long as Central Queenslanders have fighters like the members for Gregory, Mirani, Rockhampton and Keppel fighting for them, our government will always back Central Queensland. This is what it looks like to have a government that is invested in Central Queensland, that understands Central Queensland and that believes in our primary industries and will continue to deliver for all Queenslanders no matter where they live.