



Speech By  
**Hon. Brent Mickelberg**


**MEMBER FOR BUDERIM**

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Record of Proceedings, 10 December 2025

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Road Infrastructure**

 **Hon. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (2.34 pm): When Queenslanders voted for an LNP government in October last year, they voted for a government that could get major transport infrastructure projects back on track after a decade of decline. They voted for a government to get on with the job of delivering the generational road and rail upgrades they have deserved for a long time. In the last few weeks we have seen plenty of milestones across key projects, each of which is significant to so many different Queenslanders and all of which show that we are living up to the standard they set us.

On Sunday, 30 November I joined the Centenary Bridge upgrade team to celebrate the opening of a new bridge across the Brisbane River at Jindalee. This milestone marks a significant step towards a better connected, higher capacity Centenary Motorway. The river crossing was widened from two lanes to four lanes in the 1980s, but there has been no major upgrade since then. With the new bridge now operational, the project will shift focus to rehabilitating and repurposing the existing bridge. Our government stepped in to save the project, which was spiralling out of control after significant cost blowouts presided over by incompetent Labor ministers. There were \$55 million in cost blowouts on that one job and significant onsite disruption as a consequence of the same CFMEU those opposite sided with over the rights of Queenslanders. The inaction of the former Labor state government cost Queenslanders \$55 million on that job alone. That project is now running to schedule. At the end of construction, motorists will enjoy a three-lane northbound bridge and a three-lane southbound bridge with longer and safer entry and exit ramps.

Last Tuesday saw the opening of the Coomera Connector Stage 1 North, a four-kilometre section of the 16-kilometre Coomera Connector Stage 1. This section, known as the M9, is a critical piece of infrastructure for the northern Gold Coast. It will improve travel times for local motorists, bike riders and pedestrians between Shipper Drive and Helensvale Road. The M9 also provides a vital new crossing over the Coomera River, addressing a longstanding barrier to alternatives to the Pacific Motorway. As the preferred route for local trips, the Coomera Connector will help keep the M1 primarily for freight, tourism and commuter travel.

I want to acknowledge the advocacy of Gold Coast members in this House, particularly the members for Coomera, Theodore, Bonney and Broadwater, all of whom have advocated for the Coomera Connector for many years. In fact, those members took that to the election in 2017 and 2020, and it is an LNP government that is responsible for delivering the Coomera Connector after a decade of decline by those opposite.

Earlier this year our government also announced the Wave, a public transport initiative on the Sunshine Coast. We know that delivering reliable, integrated transport infrastructure requires a comprehensive approach, and that is why the Wave is being delivered alongside the Mooloolah River Interchange upgrade—something those opposite cut. The Mooloolah River Interchange is critical to the

success of the Wave, but perhaps more importantly it addresses the longstanding issue of congestion and safety on the Sunshine Motorway and provides improved road connectivity on the Sunshine Coast. After those opposite cut the Mooloolah River Interchange upgrades, stopped work and rolled over to the federal government, early works on that site are already underway. We have site preparation, clearing, service relocations and geotechnical investigations underway right now. To ensure both projects are delivered efficiently, effectively and to the highest standard—

**Mr Mellish** interjected.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I can hear the member for Aspley interjecting over there. I think he is the same bloke who rolled over when the federal government pulled their funding for that very project. In fact, it may well have been his first act in the short period he was the transport minister. He rolled over for Queenslanders and sided with Canberra on the Mooloolah River Interchange. That is his record.

We will deliver these projects efficiently, effectively and to the highest standard. We have established a program alliance to oversee the delivery of both the Wave stage 3 and the Mooloolah River Interchange upgrade. That program alliance will allow us to work hand in hand with industry to deliver these projects in one integrated program. The program alliance will be established by late next year, and both projects are on track to be operational in time for the 2032 games. As we look towards the end of this year, I am encouraged by all of these milestones. I am looking forward to continuing to deliver for Queenslanders, working hand in glove with industry to deliver the generational transport infrastructure that Queenslanders have needed for so many years.