

Mackay Port Access Road

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A Shorten Labor Government will boost jobs and local infrastructure in Central Queensland by investing \$102 million in the second stage of the Mackay Ring Road - Mackay Port Access Road.

Mackay Port Access Road forms part of Labor's Plan for Real Jobs in Queensland. Labor's commitment is for \$2 million to finalise planning and development works – and a \$100 million down payment to get construction underway as soon as possible.

The project will create hundreds of construction jobs, and provide for an ongoing pipeline of work in the region.

This announcement demonstrates Labor's commitment to infrastructure and jobs in Mackay, and can help ensure the city can plan for the future with funding certainty.

Why are we doing this?

Mackay is a growing regional city – to ensure it can keep growing and that its economy can support local jobs, it needs world class infrastructure.

By 2031, it is anticipated that the population of Mackay will increase by over 32,000 people, resulting in a forecast population of over 155,000 people.

Daily cross river traffic will increase by 50 per cent and the city's existing bridges will exceed capacity during peak periods.

Imports at the Port of Mackay are also expected to nearly double, which will greatly increase the number of trucks on the road.

In addition, the number of fuel trucks on the road will have doubled to service expansion of the Bowen Basin.

All of this means that without an investment in new infrastructure, the current route from the Mackay Port to the Bruce Highway will be heavily congested, the existing Paget Industrial Area will be nearing capacity and further residential expansion in north Mackay may need to be explored.

While construction has commenced on the first stage of the Ring Road, this announcement ensures that a future Shorten Labor Government is committed to the long term development of Mackay's infrastructure.

About the Mackay Ring Road

Stage 1 of the Ring Road, first announced by the previous Federal Labor Government, and jointly funded with the Queensland Government, is already underway.

The planned second stage will involve the construction of a new 8.2km highway from the Bruce Highway North intersection to the Harbour Road Intersection, connecting Mackay's northern suburbs to the Paget industrial area and mining locations to the west of the city.

Key features of planned Stage 2 of the Mackay Ring Road include:

- Construction of a 2-lane rural highway from Bruce Highway North Intersection, to Harbour Road;
- Connections at Glenella-Richmond Road and Valley Street;
- Connection of northern suburbs to the Paget Industrial Area; and
- Strategic connections between the Port, Racecourse Mill and the mines to the west.

The Ring Road will establish a connection between the Port of Mackay, Racecourse Mill and the mines, improving connectivity between homes and jobs.

Labor's record

This project forms part of Labor's Plan for Real Jobs in Queensland, which will see investment in infrastructure, manufacturing, mining, agriculture and energy, unlocking the massive economic potential of Central and North Queensland.

Federal Labor will commit \$102 million towards the Mackay Port Access Road.