



Speech by

RACHEL NOLAN

MEMBER FOR IPSWICH

Hansard 4 December 2001

UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND, IPSWICH CAMPUS

Ms NOLAN (Ipswich—ALP) (7.10 p.m.): Last Friday the first students of the University of Queensland Ipswich campus graduated. Ipswich has held hopes of having its own university campus since before Federation, and the graduation of our own students was a poignant success. For those students who have worked hard at their studies for the last three years, graduating was a relief. For David Hamill, Don Livingstone, former WA Deputy Premier, Mal Bryce, and the thousands of us who signed petitions and supported the cause, it was in a way the end of a long road.

Until the advent of UQ Ipswich, Ipswich had been the only provincial city in Queensland not to have its own university. While the crucial deal to secure extra university places in Queensland was reached by David Hamill and Simon Crean in 1995, UQ Ipswich has faced many obstacles. The election of the Borbidge government in 1996 posed a serious risk and the Howard government's savage higher education agenda has always been a threat. On top of that, there was a snobbish resistance to UQ moving to Ipswich, but I can now say that that has almost entirely been overcome. There are now around 2,000 students studying in the beautiful and historic surrounds of the university campus. At the graduation, the University Chancellor, Sir Llew Edwards, announced that the Senate, of which I am a member, has approved \$9.5 million to build a new university library. On Friday, students graduated from a range of leading-edge courses, including Bachelor of Information Environments, the unique Bachelor of E-commerce and the revolutionary Graduate Certificate in Interprofessional Leadership.

The university has, in its three years, formed strong links with the community, particularly through the work of Bruce Muirhead and his team at the Community Service and Research Centre. I believe that this link could be improved if the university did simple things to get local people on the campus, such as developing sports facilities. I also believe the link between the university and the community will grow when there is purpose-built student accommodation in Ipswich, enabling more students to live locally. Education is the key to understanding our world. Whether it is formal education or teaching oneself, education gives us the ability to think, to make informed choices and to make our way in the world rather than feeling that we are victims of it. For education to be really accessible, it should be local. Bringing this opportunity to Ipswich is making a real living difference to Ipswich people. The university has driven the return to optimism that Ipswich is experiencing. It has allowed smart young people to stay here and study locally. It has attracted students from overseas. It has facilitated our connection to changes in IT and has given us all a chance to learn, and that is a chance that none of us should ever miss.
