



Speech by

DESLEY SCOTT

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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STATION ROAD UPGRADE, LOGAN

Mrs DESLEY SCOTT (Woodridge—ALP) (11.25 p.m.): The doorway to a locality is important to make a positive first impression. In Logan this has occurred for road travellers at various points as you enter the city. However, over the past 18 months the Woodridge Railway Station precinct along Station Road has been undergoing a transformation as a joint community renewal project. Our community wanted rail travellers to alight to a pleasant scene of colourful gardens, shady trees, street banners, a designated bus interchange, seating areas and a pleasant environment also for those who use the area for shopping, banking and the like.

The Community Renewal Reference Group identified this project as high on their list of priorities. On Wednesday, 6 August we gathered to celebrate and launch stage 2, the final stage of the project. The partners involved in this multi-million dollar project can be justly proud of the result. May I first pay tribute to the Minister for Housing, the Hon. Robert Schwarten, who has shown tremendous commitment to areas such as Woodridge and Kingston through the community and urban renewal processes. My constituents say a heartfelt thankyou for understanding what a helping hand can do to struggling communities—and what a helping hand it has been. I thank him.

Queensland Rail set the pace by installing a lift as access to the platform and carried out a major upgrade of the railway station, complete with security cameras. Logan City Council played a leading role in planning and implementing the street upgrade. I should acknowledge Cr John Freeman, Cr Russell Lutton, Cr John Grant, CEO Gary Kellar, Oliver Simon, Peter Way and Kay Franks and all those who carried out the work on the project with colourful gardens, trees, drainage, a new road surface, street furniture and safety cameras. Martin Cooper from Ridgemill has given valuable advice and supervision. In the final stage, the roadway was reopened from Wembley Road and additional parking provided.

That is a brief overview. However, the real story behind Station Road is the involvement of Woodridge State High School students in a project called Making Places. In 2002, Principal Helen Jamieson saw an opportunity to get her students involved in the project and explored ideas with representatives of Logan City Council. A total of 109 students took part with enthusiastic direction and support from Carmen Stewart of Futurewell, teachers Fran Barker, Anke Willems, Tony Cupitt, Leigh Hansen and others joining as the project moved towards completion.

The students designed and crafted beautiful mosaic tiles which have now been placed in two tiled walls. One is used for seating and the other is a garden feature. The tiles depict messages of peace, unity, love and reconciliation. Large banners were also designed with stunning results which now line the length of the commercial area. The effect on these students has been amazing. Their work will bring a sense of pride in our community spirit and resourcefulness for many years to come.

Others to be recognised are the members of our Station Road steering committee; local business operators; our faithful community renewal volunteers; community renewal staff and staff of the area office of the Department of Housing; our Regional Managers Forum; Cane Zipinkowski, who donated black tiles for the walls; L. J. Hooker; Logan police; the Regional Arts Development Fund; the departments of Local Government and Planning, State Development, Employment and Training; and Gerda and her staff from the entertainment centre in Logan for their great catering for the launch. I have no doubt I could list more.

A project of this magnitude, which is a collaboration of many people, many departments and involves so many in a community, has a lasting impact. The gardens, the trees and the grass will grow and continue to become more beautiful in time. It will add much to my community. I say thankyou to all who played a part in this great project. Logan City can do it and do it so well.