



Speech by

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MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

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SURFERS PARADISE ELECTORATE

Mr LANGBROEK (Surfers Paradise—Lib) (11.28 p.m.): For some time I have been a strong advocate for new and innovative ways of overcoming the traffic problems that have become an everyday occurrence on the Gold Coast. Since my election I have been promoting the idea of a ferry system on the Gold Coast similar to that which has been implemented in Brisbane to such good effect. The idea was based on the fact that the Gold Coast is a canal city and the major attractions and central suburbs can all be reached by the water. On the Gold Coast we have very few methods of public transport by comparison to other cities. We now have a convention centre on the water, the casino is on the water and Surfers Paradise, Bundall, Ashmore, Southport, Nerang and Paradise Point at Sanctuary Cove can easily be accessed by water. For this reason I have undertaken discussions with Brisbane City Council transport officials to look at a way to implement the plan.

I have sent that correspondence between those officials and me to the Gold Coast city councillors. I am pleased to say that there have been some positive responses. A number of councillors have expressed their support for the idea. However, this support needs to be translated into action.

I raise this matter in the House this evening to encourage other Gold Coast members and the Transport Minister to join me in an attempt to bring a plan for a Gold Coast ferry system to fruition. Whilst I am conscious of some concerns that could be raised as a result of a ferry system, simply dismissing the plan without proper investigation would be a childish attitude.

The Gold Coast is in desperate need of long-sighted answers to infrastructure, and I encourage city leaders to realise this fact. I am pleased to hear that the Mayor, Councillor Ron Clarke, is hosting a ferry trip on Monday next week. I am pleased to accompany him and a consortium of shipbuilders.

On another matter, on 26 October I was very pleased to present Tony Bose, a student at Bellevue Park State School, with the award that he won in the middle schools category of the 2004 Technology One BYTE Awards. Tony was very excited to receive his certificate. However, he was even more excited to receive his prize of an iPod. I am sure he was the envy of all the other students at his school.

Tony's achievement is not to be underestimated. Of all the entries in the Technology One BYTE Awards, there were just 29 winners statewide and only three from primary schools. Tony and his family have every right to be proud of his achievements, as does his school, which is always producing students with exceptional talents and qualities.

Bellevue Park State School has been open since 1983. During that period of time it has been winning awards for various successes. The school is magnificently run by principal Lynne Walsh and deputy principal Margaret Ball, along with their dedicated team of teachers. I am sure that this will not be the last time I rise to congratulate one of their students.