



Speech by

Peta-Kaye Croft

MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

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BROADWATER ELECTORATE, ROAD PROJECTS

Ms CROFT (Broadwater—ALP) (10.26 pm): The Beattie government is committed to addressing the challenges associated with massive population growth in south-east Queensland and in particular the northern Gold Coast. With population growth also comes increased traffic, and since my election I have been actively advocating for funding to start and expand road projects in the Broadwater electorate. Completed in September last year, the \$14 million upgrade of Oxley Drive, from Columbus Avenue to Lae Drive, was an election commitment delivered by the Beattie government. There were 43 construction personnel employed on site for this project that delivered 27,365 tonnes of asphalt, 79 new traffic signal lanterns, 116 new street lights, 1,500 metres of stormwater drainage pipes, 7,400 metres of new kerbing and 9,300 square metres of turf to cater for 26,000 cars per day.

At the commissioning of the new upgraded Oxley Drive I was delighted that the Minister for Transport and Main Roads announced that the government had committed further funding to expand the project. I cannot tell members how many times I have seen the minister and Main Roads staff and met with local residents about the need to upgrade Hope Island Road. There have been too many times to remember. This road was not included on the Main Roads 10-year plan, the Roads Implementation Plan, until Labor represented Broadwater, and I must thank the minister for listening to my lobbying by delivering a funding commitment to get an upgrade project underway.

The total funding commitment for the Hope Island duplication project amounts to over \$120 million, with \$100 million coming from the South East Queensland Infrastructure Plan and Program funding. The next stages to be undertaken are stage 1 from the M1 to Gracemere Drive and stage 2 from Santa Barbara Road to Boykambil Esplanade. These two stages will cost \$34 million and include main features such as an upgraded roundabout at Monterey Keys Drive, new traffic lights at Crescent Avenue and improved community links for pedestrian and bicycle access. Construction will begin in 2007.

Another project that will provide for the growth on the Gold Coast that was never on the Roads Implementation Plan is the \$19.4 million Frank Street project. This project is underway, with Energex's temporary location to Loders Creek now complete and all necessary property to complete the project being acquired. Service relocation works are expected to commence in June 2006.

These projects I believe demonstrate the Beattie Labor government's commitment to addressing residents' concerns about increased traffic and the need to provide safe road networks that provide for smooth traffic flow now and for the future. I will continue to work with the minister to deliver good funding outcomes for the northern Gold Coast.