



Speech by

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MEMBER FOR INALA

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INALA ELECTORATE, TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

Ms PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (12.25 pm): On 5 June the Treasurer, the Hon. Anna Bligh, during her second reading speech on the Appropriation Bill, stated—

... our Government is investing in the economic infrastructure of the State at an unprecedented rate.

...

Our concerted efforts are delivering major projects making a real difference for Queenslanders.

During the next year—

- Cars and trucks will be driving on the Tugun Bypass and on the Boundary/Kelliher Road underpass on the Centenary Highway.

Last Friday, 17 August, the transport minister, Paul Lucas, and the lord mayor, Campbell Newman, officially opened the Boundary-Keliher roads underpass. The project was delivered under budget and ahead of schedule.

The \$40 million project in the south-east region of the Inala electorate was delivered two months early and \$900,000 under budget. An amount of \$30 million was committed by the state government, with the remaining \$10 million from the Brisbane City Council. In the past traffic moved on that road at a snail's pace, blocked by changing traffic lights and traffic congestion. Now, there is congestion relief for the 30,000 motorists who utilise this road. This road will be the new artery in the south-west region that links Brisbane to the growing suburbs of Springfield and the Ripley valley.

On the weekend I travelled on the new road and it took just 10 minutes from the Centenary interchange to the new Orion Shopping Centre out at Springfield, near Ipswich. Local residents have asked me to discuss with the minister the possibility of clearly marking the Forest Lake exit at Garden Road, as many visitors to this region are now missing the exit. I understand that officers from the minister's Main Roads Department are looking into this matter and I thank the minister for his consideration.

As part of the Boundary-Keliher project, \$10 million of state government funding went into the construction of a large retaining wall and an extra span on Boundary Road. Boundary Road in the future will become a much needed thoroughfare for the growing and expanding industry in the local area. Already Metroplex, which is located adjacent to Boundary Road and the Ipswich Motorway, has the potential to offer over 6,000 jobs in the region. Metroplex at Westgate is located on the former Wacol army barracks site. The site is 100 hectares in size and sits across the suburbs of Wacol, Richlands and Darra. The main road frontage is along the Ipswich Motorway. However, the site has frontages to Boundary Road and Production Street.

In addition to the road upgrade an extra span on Boundary Road will mean that room has been made for the Darra to Springfield railway. That will mean that the construction phase will be of minimal impact to motorists. Already \$141 million has been approved by the Beattie government, in partnership with the Horizon Alliance, to develop a detailed design of the new transport corridor.

As more and more people move out to the south-western suburbs, more public transport is needed. Last month the minister for transport, the Hon. Paul Lucas, visited my electorate to announce the site of the new Richlands Railway Station at the end of Garden Road north of Progress Road. In April two options for the site of the Richlands Railway Station were put to the community.

Ms Jones: And which one do they want to go with?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I say to the member for Ashgrove that over 1,300 community members gave feedback and 91 per cent preferred the station site north of Progress Road. The station is good news for the people of Inala. They will have access to a high-quality public transport connection to Ipswich, Brisbane and beyond.

Mr Lawlor: They deserve some good news.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Southport. The station will include a bus interchange, a 200-space park and ride, a taxi rank and bicycle lockers. The development will be located on state government and council owned land, which means that there will be no residential land resumptions.

Finally, the residents of Richlands, Inala and Forest Lake will have access to a railway line. The area around Richlands is a growth area and the state government is committed to catering for this growth over the next 10 to 20 years. There will also be a massive upgrade to the Centenary Highway and Ipswich Motorway.

At Gales, which is at the Ipswich end of my electorate, work is currently underway on the \$255 million Ipswich Motorway and the Logan Motorway interchange. This massive project is due for completion in 2009. Planning is also underway for the Ipswich Motorway upgrade from Wacol to Darra.

It is very clear that the Beattie government is committed to infrastructure in the western corridor. Planning and infrastructure is vital to growth in this district. In contrast, over the past 11 years the Howard government has done little for transport infrastructure in this region, with the exception of providing funding for the Gales-Logan interchange.

The Howard government has done nothing to improve the Ipswich Motorway. The Howard government has done nothing for motorists that use that road day in, day out. It has provided one solution: a \$2.3 billion half Goodna bypass in an election year. The electorate will see that half measure for what it is. The half bypass is not the sole answer. The Howard government and its local federal members, Cameron Thompson and Michael Johnson, should hang their heads in shame for their inaction. The Ipswich Motorway is 100 per cent the responsibility of the federal government and it should pay for it.