



Speech by

Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR STAFFORD

Hansard Tuesday, 7 August 2007

STAFFORD ELECTORATE, INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr HINCHLIFFE (Stafford—ALP) (3.28 pm): I am pleased to advise the House on the success of my ongoing representations on behalf of the Kedron State High School community in response to the potential impacts of the Airport Link and northern busway projects. Last month the Deputy Premier joined me at Kedron State High School to announce \$3.5 million that has been provided to Education Queensland for the predicted disruptions, including the temporary loss of one of its playing fields. This funding commitment was announced, as I say, by me and the Deputy Premier at the school on Friday, 20 July 2007. This amount of \$3.5 million will allow improvements to the educational environment at Kedron State High School. I am very pleased to be involved in ongoing discussions with principal Myron McCormick and the P&C about the school community's needs and wants, particularly with regard to the creating of an indoor sporting facility for Kedron High.

The \$3.5 million will not replace impact mitigation measures such as acoustically lined work sheds, dust suppression systems, noise barriers and traffic management plans. The Queensland government has stipulated that the successful tenderer will be legally obliged to develop and implement a plan to minimise construction impacts on the schools and the wider community. The mitigation costs will be built into the project. Once the contract is awarded they will complete a detailed design and environmental management plan for each project and mitigation measures will be finalised.

If additional funding is required to enhance facilities at the school throughout construction, then requests will be considered as part of Education Queensland's existing capital program. I am committed to ensuring that the high-quality and, indeed, well-regarded education offered at Kedron State High School will be maintained throughout the construction of these very important projects, and I am confident that if the whole school community and, indeed, the government and other players work together to maximise the potential for this funding, we can make Kedron State High School into an even stronger school with as little disruption as possible.

Airport Link and the northern busway are two of the largest infrastructure projects planned in the first phase of the state government's South East Queensland Infrastructure Plan and Program. Together these projects are expected to reduce traffic congestion in Brisbane's northern suburbs, improve travel time and reliability, increase travel options, improve air quality, reduce overall road traffic noise and enhance pedestrian and cycling facilities—and I note this in particular—including the Gympie Road crossing to Kedron State High School and the access to the Kedron Brook bike and pedestrian paths for the school and the whole community. Further, the Deputy Premier has asked—and I note this is important for another part of the school community in the area—Education Queensland to investigate creating a new drop-off and pick-up zone outside Woolloowin State School as part of the mitigation measures for that school.

I look forward to having further meetings with teachers, administrators, families and other staff members at Kedron State High School and Woolloowin State School as well as all the relevant government and non-government stakeholders as we continue to work towards our common goal—that is, to continue to provide the best educational opportunities and learning environments possible for our children.

On that point, I want to extend my appreciation to the Deputy Premier and, indeed, to the Minister for Education for listening to the concerns of the Kedron State High School and Woolloowin State School communities. I also want to extend my appreciation to the officers of City North Infrastructure who, along with the government, have listened and responded to community concerns. Most of all, I want to extend my appreciation to the people who make up the school communities that have been affected. I want to thank the school administration at Kedron State High School, especially principal Myron McCormick. I want to thank the P&C Association, especially the president of the Parents and Citizens Association, Adrian Quinn. But I particularly want to thank the teachers and staff, especially those members of the QTU and other unions who took stop-work action at a cost to themselves in terms of their pay packets to draw attention to the school community's concerns about the impacts.

There is a long way to go in dealing with the impacts of this major project, but everyone is working hard for the students and, as I say, is committed to the common goal of continuing to provide the best educational opportunities and learning environments possible for our children.