



Speech by

Annastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Hansard Wednesday, 12 March 2008

INALA ELECTORATE, TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

Ms PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (11.46 am): Last parliamentary sitting, I spoke about the state government's announcement of the new \$15 million Darra Railway Station and the commencement of work on the third track from Corinda to Darra. This week I am pleased to announce even more expenditure on infrastructure in the south-west corridor. The much needed upgrade of the Wacol to Darra section of the Ipswich Motorway is about to commence. This will also incorporate a total upgrade of the Centenary Highway interchange. The Australian government has committed \$700 million for this project which will relieve congestion along this section of the motorway and improve safety and reliability for all motorists.

The four existing lanes on the Ipswich Motorway will be widened to six, and it will also allow for expansion in the future to eight. For construction purposes, the project has been divided into two sections. Construction of the first section—which is east of Progress Road, Wacol—will commence in 2008. The second section involves the area west of Progress Road. The whole project is expected to be completed by 2010. This new Centenary Highway interchange will also cater for the rail track from Darra to Springfield that I mentioned the last time. This is good news for the people living in both the south-west region of Brisbane and Ipswich.

The Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, was on hand in the electorate of Inala for the official sod-turning ceremony, accompanied by the federal minister for transport, Anthony Albanese, the state minister for main roads, Warren Pitt, and several of my state colleagues. Both the Bligh government and the Rudd government are committed to providing the infrastructure necessary for our region's growth. This is welcome news for the people living in this corridor to help alleviate the traffic congestion on the Ipswich Motorway.

Next week, community consultations will begin on the Ipswich Motorway upgrade. These sessions will be held at the Centenary Community Hall in Darra, the Darra State School, the Inala town centre, the Forest Lake Village and the Portugese Centre at Carole Park, to name just a few. I encourage all members of the public to come along to these sessions to find out more information.