



Speech by

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MEMBER FOR INALA

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INALA ELECTORATE, TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

Ms PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (11.45 am): The Bligh government is getting on with the job of building Queensland's infrastructure. As more and more people move to the south-west, the Bligh government is committed to easing traffic congestion with major projects already underway. Today I can report that the Ipswich-Logan interchange at Gales is proceeding on track and on time. This \$225 million project is part of the federal and state governments' commitment for a growing community and for improving safety and traffic flow on the Ipswich Motorway. This work also includes upgrading the Ipswich-Logan interchange and a two-kilometre stretch at the Ipswich Motorway between Goodna and Gales. Last month, the member for Bundamba and I along with councillors Milton Dick, David Morrison and Paul Tully inspected the construction works, and it is only when you see this work up close that you can appreciate the significance. The project's next major traffic switches are planned for June, July, August and September this year.

Further down the Ipswich Motorway, we can see the construction and site works happening at the Centenary interchange. The Ipswich Motorway will be widened from four to six lanes, with the provision for eight lanes in the future. The expected completion date is late 2010. In addition, the Bligh government is committed to building the Darra to Springfield railway. Already land is being cleared around the site at the new Richlands train station, with the sod turning expected for July-August later this year. These projects are clearly aimed at easing traffic congestion for motorists.

Today I am urging the main roads minister and the minister for transport to also address the traffic congestion around the Wacol Railway Station and Progress Road intersection. I know their offices are aware of this situation and residents have been bringing their concerns to both the member for Mount Ommanney and me.

The traffic works at Gales and Centenary mean that extra pressure is being put on the Wacol intersection. It is now time to have discussions with the federal government and the council to alleviate the problems on this intersection. This will enable there to be a smooth flow of traffic for motorists today and for the future.