



Speech by

Ms Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Wednesday, 12 March 2008

NORTHERN BUSWAY

Ms GRACE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (11.38 am): I am pleased to inform the House that construction of the \$198 million first stage of the Northern Busway from the Royal Children's Hospital busway station to Windsor, in my electorate, will begin this month. At an official sod-turning ceremony on Sunday morning, 9 March 2008, the Premier and the Minister for Transport, Trade, Employment and Industrial Relations welcomed an alliance involving Main Roads, Abigroup Contractors and SMEC which has been formed to deliver the first 1.2-kilometre section of the Northern Busway. The sod turning marked the start of the construction phase of the project.

The first stage is scheduled to be completed by late 2009. It represents a key link to the existing Inner Northern Busway and will greatly improve public transport access to the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital. By 2016 more than 13,000 people per day are expected to get on or off at the RBWH bus station. The busway will cut travel time from the hospital and Windsor by almost five minutes, and it will be up to 20 minutes faster to continue along the Inner Northern Busway to the city. This all adds up to a fast and hassle-free public transport system and represents a win for all northside public transport users as buses will be able to bypass a known traffic bottleneck.

The project includes an elevated two-lane, two-way busway with a new modern, three-level busway station at the hospital complete with high-quality security and surveillance including closed-circuit television linking to the busway operations centre. This exciting first stage will eventually link up with the second stage of the busway from Windsor to Kedron being delivered as part of the Airport Link construction, and that is commencing in 2009.

The northern busway is an integral part of the Bligh government's long-term plan and infrastructure commitment to meet the transport needs of Brisbane's growing northside communities and to tackle congestion on our roads. It is a great plan to serve future growth. Part of the government's infrastructure spend includes buses having their own congestion-free, dedicated busway to free up road space, thus reducing travelling time for busy commuters and motorists.