



Speech by

## Ms Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Tuesday, 13 May 2008

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### INNER NORTHERN BUSWAY

**Ms GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (9.59 pm): Today I have great pleasure and pride in announcing the successful completion of TransLink's Inner Northern Busway, which has been completed on budget and six months ahead of schedule. The integrated transport system represents the Queensland government's stalwart dedication to infrastructure development in the Brisbane CBD. In attending the official opening by Premier Bligh of the Inner Northern Busway on 4 May, I along with thousands of other residents took advantage of the open day to inspect firsthand this excellent facility.

This government has been committed to extensive infrastructure development and has its finger on the pulse in delivering Brisbane city's emerging traffic and congestion solutions. This government does not want to simply mitigate the problem; we want to usher in a new era of state-of-the-art safe and clean infrastructure development. The Inner Northern Busway is a spectacular example of this. It is a \$333 million project that was two years in the making but completed six months early. The busway will alleviate congestion and will also provide a greener, more pragmatic means for residents to gain access to the CBD.

On 19 May 2008 the Inner Northern Busway will commence operations and will begin transporting commuters throughout the CBD and the inner northern suburbs. On that day over \$5 million worth of new bus services will also commence operation in Brisbane city. With 120 routes using the new thoroughfare and approximately 250 buses in service during morning peak hour, the Inner Northern Busway will deliver fast and frequent services saving the expected 90,000 commuters up to 20 minutes in heavy traffic. By dedicating a phenomenal \$100 million a week in infrastructure developments, the state government is seeing results. The completion of the Inner Northern Busway heralds a new era in commuting for Brisbane city, the likes of which has not been seen since the completion and success of the South East Busway in 2001.

In addition, the new King George Square \$7 million cycle centre, which is the first of its kind in Australia, will provide parking for 420 bicycles as well as showers, lockers and changing rooms for busy cyclists. About 12 per cent of workers in the CBD cycle, walk or jog to work every day and this excellent facility is part of the government's vision to make it easier and safer for people to get out and be active, healthy and green.

Last Saturday night I was honoured to attend the Inner Northern Busway Charity Ball. It was a truly spectacular event befitting this great facility. I commend and thank Leighton's government relations adviser, Adrienne Ward, and her organising team for doing a fantastic job. Holding a charity ball in a tunnel is not easy but all present enjoyed themselves and raised much-needed funds for charity. I am grateful and extend my thanks and tribute to all the people who have helped make this happen, and look forward to 19 May when the busway will be in full operation.