



Speech by

Ms Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

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KING GEORGE SQUARE CYCLE CENTRE

Ms GRACE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (11.53 am): It is with great excitement that I rise to inform the House that Brisbane's King George Square Cycle Centre was officially opened this week on Monday, 2 June by Minister John Mickel and Councillor Jane Prentice. I attended the opening of this impressive \$7 million centre—the first of its kind in Australia, which is a joint initiative between Queensland Transport and the Brisbane City Council. The cycle centre located at King George Square Station is operated by commercial operators Fit2Work from 6 am to 8 pm Monday to Friday. As the first of its kind in Brisbane, these facilities are available to members only at a cost of \$5 to \$7 per day, which includes daily access to secure electronic bike parking for 420 bicycles, fresh towels, showers, rest rooms and individual lockers. On seeing these finalised facilities firsthand on Monday, I can confirm that they are most impressive, being modern, clean and first-class.

About 12 per cent of workers in the CBD cycle, walk or jog to work every day and our challenge is now to increase these numbers. Brisbane commuters are being urged to strap on their bike helmets and slip on their walking shoes and to take advantage of this fantastic centre. The cycle centre demonstrates the Bligh government's commitment to making it easier and safer for people to get out and be active by offering a service that shows walking and cycling can be more convenient, far cheaper and better for the environment than travelling by car. This well-planned, integrated facility is designed to encourage more people to get active and healthy, and reaffirms the Bligh government's vision to promote health and wellbeing, manage congestion and contribute positively to climate change.

The cycle centre connects to the existing \$17.1 million Normanby pedestrian and cycle link in Roma Street Parkland, opened in September 2007, offering an uninterrupted run into the city centre. I take this opportunity to congratulate the Bligh government, the BCC and all involved in opening this state-of-the-art cycle facility. I wish the commercial operators Fit2Work every success, and I encourage those who already cycle or walk to work or those thinking of doing so to take advantage of this fantastic facility and services on offer.