



Speech by

Ms Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Wednesday, 27 August 2008

NORTHERN BUSWAY

Ms GRACE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (11.47 am): On Sunday, 20 July construction of the Northern Busway's \$198 million first stage from the Royal Children's Hospital station to Windsor reached a major milestone with the installation of the first bridge beams to the elevated busway. The elevated busway runs from the existing Royal Children's Hospital busway station at Herston to a connection at Bowen Bridge Road just south of Enoggera Creek, Windsor.

I was there with Premier Anna Bligh and Minister John Mickel to see the first of 14 Super T precast bridge girders installed. These beams are typically 26 metres in length and weigh about 50 tonnes. A 350-tonne hydraulic crane was used on site to lift each beam into place. This is the largest crane currently in use in Brisbane.

A total of 184 bridge girders will ultimately be installed for the first stage of the Northern Busway. It is a great pleasure to drive past and see the fast progress that is being made. I want to congratulate the Northern Busway Alliance for their work so far on this complex project. I also want to acknowledge the cooperation of our Queensland Health stakeholders during these works. Minimising construction impacts on our neighbours and motorists is a key focus of the project.

One of the major benefits of this project is the greatly improved public transport access to the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital. It will be a key link to the existing Inner Northern Busway. The next stage of the Northern Busway, from Windsor north to Kedron, will soon start construction in conjunction with Airport Link. By 2016 it is expected 47,000 passengers a day will use it.

The busway's \$198 million first stage is on schedule to be completed by September 2009. It is great that we will see better public transport in inner-city Brisbane, elevated busways taking buses fast into the inner city and passengers saving very valuable minutes on their journey to get to the inner city because of the investment made by the Bligh government.