



Speech by

**Hon. Rachel Nolan**

**MEMBER FOR IPSWICH**

Hansard Wednesday, 22 April 2009

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## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Transport Infrastructure Projects**

**Hon. RG NOLAN** (Ipswich—ALP) (Minister for Transport) (10.12 am): Since the election, the Bligh government has been getting on with the job of building public transport infrastructure that not only will provide better services but also has a focus on creating jobs. The day after I was sworn in as transport minister, I accompanied the Premier on a visit to Central Queensland to inspect the \$500 million rail yard upgrade at Jilalan. In the following week, again with the Premier, I attended the start of work on the Robina to Varsity Lakes rail extension on the Gold Coast—a \$324 million project that is creating more than 2,000 jobs as well as supporting local industries and injecting money into the local economy. I have visited Cairns to announce the next stage of planning for the Cairns Transit Network, which is a rapid transit project that in time will deliver modern transport services for the city. Again, it is a project that will create jobs.

Here in South-East Queensland key projects are expected to generate more than 13,000 jobs in total. Three new busways will open this year, including the Boggo Road Busway, the Eastern Busway and the Northern Busway. The \$226 million Boggo Road Busway and stage 1 of the \$140 million Eastern Busway, which the Premier toured last week, are expected to cut up to 10 minutes on some trips from the southern and eastern suburbs. Stage 1 of the Eastern Busway, which is ahead of schedule, links the nearby Boggo Road Busway to the South East Busway at Buranda and includes a new busway station at the Princess Alexandra Hospital. We have committed \$777 million to deliver two stages of the Northern Busway. The first stage will link the Royal Children's Hospital to Windsor, while stage 2 extends the busway to Kedron.

This government is also keeping Queenslanders moving via rail upgrades. We are laying more tracks, building more stations and refitting old ones, as well as improving other essential rail infrastructure. Right now we are rolling out new trains at the rate of one a month. The government is also committed to the \$1.67 billion Gold Coast rapid transit system that will provide a rail link between Helensvale and Coolangatta. On the Sunshine Coast, the Coast Connect project will provide the necessary infrastructure to ensure residents and visitors have access to efficient and reliable public transport services. Our investments in infrastructure will improve public transport services, help relieve traffic congestion and, importantly, create jobs.