



Speech by

## Hon. Rachel Nolan

MEMBER FOR IPSWICH

Hansard Thursday, 21 May 2009

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### MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

#### TravelSmart

**Hon. RG NOLAN** (Ipswich—ALP) (Minister for Transport) (11.25 am): The Bligh government is getting on with the job of reaching our Q2 green targets by reducing congestion and greenhouse gas emissions in South-East Queensland. We are doing that through a multipronged strategy. Firstly, there are major transport projects, such as our extensive busway network, unprecedented spending on passenger railway upgrades and our \$556 million Cycle Network Program. Secondly, we are continually upgrading bus, rail and ferry services, currently rolling out one new train every month. Thirdly, we are actively seeking to change the way people choose to travel so they leave their cars at home whenever possible.

I am proud to announce today that the Bligh government has authorised the largest TravelSmart travel behaviour change project ever undertaken. TravelSmart communities projects work directly with householders to reduce reliance on cars and to encourage people to use healthier, more environmentally friendly forms of travel, such as public transport, walking, cycling and car pooling. The TravelSmart communities program will cover the Sunshine Coast, Caboolture, the Gold Coast, Ipswich and Brisbane's southern suburbs. The program will extend the excellent work achieved by TravelSmart in Brisbane's northern suburbs during 2006-07.

The northern suburbs project created 200 jobs. These new projects will create up to 600 more jobs for Queenslanders. The residents of some 324,000 South-East Queensland households will be asked to participate in TravelSmart projects during the next two years. Those involved will be given assistance to move from private vehicle commuting to more sustainable methods of transport.

We know that this form of intervention has a very positive impact on travel behaviour. In Brisbane north, where the project involved 74,500 homes, there were outstanding results, including a 25,000 tonne reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, a 49 per cent increase in walking, a 58 per cent increase in cycling, a 22 per cent increase in public transport use, and a 13 per cent decrease in car use as driver. That is a 13 per cent reduction in private vehicle use—an enormous impact. Similar results in the TravelSmart projects I am announcing today could mean that the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions may well exceed 100,000 tonnes. I urge all members to become actively involved and help to promote a cleaner, greener lifestyle in the great south-east.