



Speech by

Hon. Rachel Nolan

MEMBER FOR IPSWICH

Hansard Tuesday, 16 June 2009

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Busways

Hon. RG NOLAN (Ipswich—ALP) (Minister for Transport) (10.11 am): Despite the global financial crisis, the Bligh government is continuing its multimillion dollar busway infrastructure program creating thousands of jobs for Queenslanders. The Boggo Road Busway and Eastern Busway at the Princess Alexandra Hospital are currently underway. The \$226 million Boggo Road project and stage 1 of the \$141 million Eastern Busway are creating 2,825 direct and indirect jobs. Both are on schedule for opening by August.

The Boggo Road Busway is expected to cut up to 10 minutes from some trips from the southern and eastern suburbs to the University of Queensland. A person can get on a bus at Eight Mile Plains and travel by busway all the way to the university. It is expected to take up to 600 buses off the road every day which means up to 13,000 passengers will use them daily.

The next stage of the Eastern Busway, from Buranda to Main Avenue at Coorparoo, is a \$466 million project which is soon to commence. It will create 2,839 direct and indirect jobs. The result of it will be that travel from Coorparoo to the city will be reduced from 18 minutes to 10 minutes. By 2016 it will carry 7,000 passengers in the morning peak. As I said, construction is expected to start in the middle of this year, with completion scheduled for 2012.

On the north side, the Northern Busway from the Royal Children's Hospital to Windsor is also soon to be completed. This \$198 million project is creating 1,529 direct and indirect jobs. It is on schedule to be opened by August this year, one month ahead of schedule. Together with the Northern Busway from Windsor to Kedron, travel between Herston and Kedron will be reduced from 13 minutes to seven minutes in the morning peak and from 19 minutes to seven minutes in the evening peak. By 2016 the busway will cater for 47,000 trips per day, rising to 78,000 trips per day in 2026.

The Bligh government is also building rail infrastructure. The \$800 million stage 1 rail and road transport corridor from Darra to Springfield is currently underway, creating 6,240 direct and indirect jobs. Stage 1 of this project, which I visited just last week, is due for completion in 2011. We are also building a new passenger railway line from Darra to Richlands with a new Richlands station.

These are substantial public transport infrastructure projects currently underway across the south-east. Despite the global financial crisis, the Bligh government is on track to meet its strong and green targets as we head toward Q2.