



Speech by

Vicky Darling

MEMBER FOR SANDGATE

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HOUGHTON HIGHWAY DUPLICATION PROJECT

Ms DARLING (Sandgate—ALP) (11.51 am): The Bligh Labor government is making the right decisions now for Queensland's future and will continue its \$18.2 billion infrastructure and job creation program. The Bligh government's \$315 million Houghton Highway duplication project is motoring along and has now passed the halfway mark. Two weeks ago I was joined by the Minister for Main Roads, the Hon. Craig Wallace, and my electoral neighbour Lillian van Litsenburg, the member for Redcliffe, to inspect progress on the bridge and announce the new name of the duplicate bridge. The Ted Smout Memorial Bridge was named as part of Queensland's 150th birthday celebrations. Local resident Brian Cantwell of Bracken Ridge suggested the new name, which was among more than 30 name suggestions.

I would like to read to the House an excerpt from Brian's nomination which I think sums up the reason the committee selected the Ted Smout Memorial Bridge name. He wrote—

Naming the Houghton Highway duplication bridge 'The Ted Smout Memorial Bridge' after the former Brisbane Citizen of the Year and French Legion of Honour recipient would be a fitting tribute for the local resident who would always extend an arm of friendship and link to his fellow Australians.

His suggestion is very popular with locals who knew Ted and his involvement with the Sandgate RSL and the many projects and services of our returned service men and women. Ted was always generous with his time and knew the importance of talking to our young people about the sacrifices of defending our country. Ted Smout OAM was Queensland's last surviving World War I digger before his death in 2004 at the age of 106.

The Ted Smout Memorial Bridge is a new 2.7 kilometre road, cycle and pedestrian bridge, which will link Redcliffe and Brisbane and is on track to be open to traffic mid next year. The existing Houghton Bridge will then be refurbished, with the entire project completed by 2011. It is expected that this project will support over 700 jobs during the construction period.

When complete, the Ted Smout Memorial Bridge will consist of 10,000 tonnes of asphalt, 9,000 tonnes of steel and 120,000 tonnes of concrete. I thank Main Roads and construction contractor, the Hull-Albem Joint Venture, for keeping me up to date on progress and facilitating inspections of the project for me.

My constituents in the Sandgate electorate are looking forward to the brand new fishing platform being constructed at the southern end of the bridge. The platform will be connected to the bridge by a wheelchair accessible walkway. I can inform the House that the platform piles and most of the platform work is now complete. The north and south abutments are also both complete. I have established now a community reference group to advise the government on how best to rehabilitate Decker Park at Brighton, which is housing the construction site, and I look forward to hearing viewpoints at our first meeting which is being convened shortly.

Boaties will notice some changed conditions and I ask that people remain cautious while these works are underway. I would like to remind motorists also to be patient and careful around all construction works across Queensland. There is a lot of work happening as we continue to support jobs and build infrastructure for Queensland. There are far too many accidents and near misses involving our

roadworkers. Reduced speed zones around roadworks are enforceable by law. Last night a traffic controller was killed by a car disobeying road instructions at Burpengary. I pass on my condolences to the family and friends of this dedicated worker.

This is a tragic reminder for people to slow down and obey the directions around roadworks. They are there for your safety and for the safety of the people working on our roads, so please be patient. Every day there are hundreds of roadworkers doing their job on Queensland roads for the benefit of all road users. Motorists driving without due care around roadworks risk more than damage to their vehicles or fines or demerit points. They risk causing traffic consequences for themselves, other road users and roadworkers. I urge motorists to remember to look out, watch out and be aware and, quite honestly, to stop being so stupid.