



Speech by

Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR STAFFORD

Hansard Wednesday, 24 February 2010

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Airport Link

Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (10.13 am): During the last sitting I was pleased to advise the House that construction of the Airport Link, Northern Busway and airport roundabout upgrade projects were well underway. When complete, Australia's largest infrastructure project will slash travel times for motorists and public transport patrons in a city currently experiencing some of the country's worst peak-hour traffic. I am aware that Airport Link construction work is impacting residents near the nine major work sites from Bowen Hills through to Lutwyche, Windsor, Kedron, Clayfield and Toombul. In recent weeks, I have again met with affected residents and heard firsthand the toll this project is taking. I would like to inform residents and the House that the government will continue to take every mitigation measure possible.

The state government will continue to investigate any possible breaches of the independent Coordinator-General's strict construction conditions, which include noise and light restrictions and spoil truck regulations. If breaches are detected, penalties will follow. I understand the Department of Environment and Resource Management is continuing to monitor project activities to ensure the Coordinator-General's strict dust restriction conditions are being enforced. An investigation into an incident involving after-hours work at Wooloowin recently led to the Coordinator-General issuing a show-cause notice on 18 January. A warning has also been issued after complaints were received near the Toombul work site. In addition, the Department of Transport and Main Roads has undertaken safety checks on the many vehicles hauling spoil from project sites. This too will continue.

I take this opportunity to inform the residents of Lamington Avenue, Lutwyche, that Airport Link trucks will soon be using an alternative route to reduce noise and other impacts. However, not all impacts can be mitigated. Despite fitting 250 homes with mitigation devices such as air conditioning or double glazing, and the installation of noise walls and acoustic sheds, the state government has purchased or offered to purchase more than 12 extra properties whose owners are finding the impacts too difficult to endure. When complete, this project will slash travel times for the whole Brisbane community. Once again I would like to respectfully thank the residents of the inner north side and ask for their continued patience.