



Speech by

Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR STAFFORD

Hansard Thursday, 20 May 2010

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Airport Link

Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (10.20 am): The massive construction effort to build the Airport Link tunnel, the Northern Busway Windsor-Kedron section and upgrade the airport roundabout is now in full swing. I again thank residents living near the work sites, which stretch from Bowen Hills to Toombul, for their patience.

In March this year I began a process to ensure that people living near one of the biggest work sites, Kedron Brook, were given the opportunity to help plan for new retail and commercial facilities to be provided once construction is complete in mid-2012. At that time it is expected that several properties in the area currently required for construction will be freed up and ready for a new use.

Over the past few months Kedron and Gordon Park residents have been surveyed about the facilities they would like to see in their area. In late March a survey was distributed to 3,000 local residents and business owners to capture their views, and many other residents also attended seven focus groups held in April to have their say on this issue. In addition, 70 locals attended an information day last Saturday to learn about the project and voice their opinions.

Feedback from the community clearly identified a desire for new and upgraded footpaths and bikeways, cafes, restaurants, meeting places, boutique shops, fresh food shops, community facilities, more green space and off-leash dog areas. These suggestions will be considered and evaluated by the normal Brisbane City Council processes. As part of the project there will also be extensive rehabilitation of Kedron Brook. There will also be better pedestrian and cycleways and work on new gardens. Planning has already begun for a cafe on the edge of the brook. To ensure residents are kept informed, a newsletter providing details of the results of the survey, focus groups and the information day will be distributed in coming weeks. I would like to thank residents for their involvement in this vital planning process.

The combined Airport Link projects, which are currently employing around 3,000 workers with a total job creation figure of around 10,000, will deliver better roads and travel times, one million new plants and trees, 13 kilometres of new or improved cycleways and pathways and more than three hectares of new parkland. This project again highlights the Bligh government's commitment to creating jobs and building tomorrow's Queensland.