



Speech by


**Grace Grace**

**MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL**

Hansard Thursday, 17 November 2011

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## **SCHOOLIES WEEK; AIRPORT LINK**

 **Ms GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (3.20 pm): Today my daughter, Aly, finishes school. I want to wish her and her friends a very happy last day of school and a great schoolies week. I know that, because of the government initiatives, schoolies week will be safe for them all.

I wish to talk about Australia's largest and most complex road infrastructure project, Airport Link, which marks its third year of construction. With just eight months of construction scheduled until completion, there have been many milestones. I want to go through some of those. Since November 2008 this project has spent \$3.75 billion on the Airport Link, the Northern Busway—Windsor to Kedron—and the airport roundabout upgrade. Workers on the project have worked 25 million hours. Employment peaked at 4,500. Workers on the project bored and lined 15 kilometres of tunnel and ramps and replaced the airport roundabout with a new airport flyover and fast diamond intersection. The project's information centre received more than 10,000 visitors. The project distributed more than one million notifications to local residents and businesses and provided more than 500 individual mitigation treatments for nearby residents.

It is these residents whom I particularly want to thank. They have had to endure dust, noise and disruption. Often their quiet suburban life has been turned upside down. We have to be honest about this. These wonderful residents have been patient about this. I have been on their back decks and in their homes. I want to extend a special thankyou, as would the member for Stafford, who is sitting in the House nodding, to all those residents. I say: thank you very much; there is a light at the end of the tunnel. We are nearly finished and we want to pay our due respects for what they have had to endure.

There have been many great benefits from this project, unlike what we have seen from the previous Lord Mayor: a failed Clem7 tunnel, a CityCycle Scheme that nobody uses, a King George Square that nobody sits in and, of course, overdevelopment in my area which is quite disgusting.