




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Record of Proceedings, 24 May 2016

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Ipswich Motorway

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.36 am): On 9 March this year I joined the Deputy Premier and the Minister for Main Roads to announce that my government had increased its share of funding for the Ipswich Motorway Rocklea-Darra stage 1 upgrade to \$200 million. This was over and above the usual 80-20 funding share for joint projects with the Commonwealth. Our \$200 million commitment meant our share of the \$400 million would be 50-50 if the federal government matched our pledge. The federal government finally came to the table. As a result, I am pleased to announce that contract procurement for stage 1 of the Ipswich Motorway upgrade between Rocklea and Darra has started and the call for proposals and registrations of interest has been issued. This means jobs and solutions to traffic congestion are one step closer.

This \$400 million project will support 470 jobs during construction and have the knock-on effect of helping local businesses. The Ipswich Motorway is currently a major source of frustration for more than 85,000 motorists who use this section of the motorway daily, including up to 12,000 trucks. The sooner the longstanding congestion and safety issues on the Ipswich Motorway are alleviated, the better it will be for road users and the community. This project will provide a safer, quicker motorway journey for the motorists and improve national and local freight movements.

The main roads minister informs me that industry has a keen eye on the project, which will ensure there will be healthy competition between proponents. We are asking for innovation, capability and talent from industry to make certain we get a solution that serves road users and delivers value for money. Proposals will be submitted later this year and the contract to design and construct stage 1 of the Ipswich Motorway upgrade Rocklea-Darra project will be awarded early next year with major construction expected soon after. In the meantime, we are well underway with preconstruction and have identified early works activities which can start before awarding the major contract for the project. Some early works include the safety improvement works on the motorway's eastbound off-ramp to the roundabout at Oxley and Blunder roads starting in June. The works at this location will improve the safety of the off-ramp and roundabout by reducing queuing from the ramp extending back to the motorway through-lanes.