




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR LYTTON

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ADJOURNMENT

Port of Brisbane, Port Drive Duplication

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (11.34 pm): Last week I was delighted to attend with the Hon. Mark Bailey, Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports, and Mr Roy Cummins, CEO of the Port of Brisbane, at the announcement of the Port of Brisbane Port Drive duplication project. This \$110 million upgrade to Port Drive is a great commitment by the Port of Brisbane and a show of confidence in the Queensland economy.

The port is a fabulous economic enabler for this state, with over \$50 billion in trade handled through the port the last financial year alone. At any time, there are over 2,000 people working at the Port of Brisbane and many of them are local families from the bayside. Each year, more than 3.1 million vehicles access the port, and that is projected to grow substantially over time.

This project, which is being delivered ahead of time, is a great example of long-term planning and safety at the Port of Brisbane. Beginning construction well before capacity ensures that the impact on current and future port operations will be minimal, meaning that the port can operate as business as usual. Importantly, the road will be widened to accommodate two lanes each way and will include a concrete separation barrier the full length of the road, providing additional safety for the road users. This duplication will improve safety for all users of the port now and into the future. The duplication will also ensure that emergency service vehicles can access the port. Currently, should an emergency occur and the road is closed, the only way in or out is via the Brisbane River as there is only one way in or out with the current road infrastructure.

There is also great news for cyclists with a segregated cycle path. This path will allow cyclists to ride to Port Gate on their own designated cycle path—not compete with the heavy vehicles and other traffic on Port Drive. This is a great safety improvement for cyclists and will enable them to ride to Port Gate on a safe, dedicated path. Cyclists can then utilise the cycle facilities at Port Gate. This fabulous initiative will improve the local and South-East Queensland cycle network.

Our local boaties and fisherpeople will also benefit from this upgrade by being provided with safer and easier access to the public boat ramp. Currently, access to the boat ramp is only available via the exit side of Port Drive, which requires people to drive onto the island and come back and then cross the railway tracks, which is a complex manoeuvre.

This project, which is estimated to take up to two years, will support close to 390 jobs during construction. The Port of Brisbane is committed to ensuring that they remain a world-class facility by duplicating Port Drive. They will continue to provide state-of-the-art access to the facility. The port's commitment to safety for all port users, including cyclists, and to improving access to public facilities is great work by this fabulous corporate citizen. I look forward to continuing to work with the Port of Brisbane.