




Speech By
Leanne Linard

MEMBER FOR NUDGE

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Gateway Upgrade North Project

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (2.39 pm): Another Gateway Upgrade North project milestone has been achieved, with the first bridge deck units—20-tonne concrete road carriageway supports—lifted into place on the new bridge at the Bicentennial Road interchange at Boondall in my electorate.

Mr Hinchliffe: Hear, hear!

Ms LINARD: I take that interjection. I know it also significantly affects and benefits the member for Sandgate. Once complete, the Bicentennial Road interchange will have more than 100 bridge deck units fitted as part of the upgrade works. I visited the site last week along with the federal member for Lilley, Wayne Swan, and my Gateway neighbour, the member for Sandgate, to see the progress firsthand. The project will widen an 11.3-kilometre section of the motorway from four to six lanes between Nudgee and Bracken Ridge and address a long-term congestion issue in Brisbane's north. This almost \$1.2 billion project, jointly funded by the state and Commonwealth governments, will literally change the lives of the estimated 80,000 motorists who commute on this road daily.

In other updates on the project, preliminary works at the North Boondall train station are complete and the new permanent car park on Peacock Street is now open to commuters. Permanent fauna fencing will be installed this month to prevent animals from accessing the motorway and will direct them to fauna crossing locations. In addition, earthworks are ongoing on both sides of Nundah Creek, with major construction works commencing this month on the northbound bridge. Some of these activities are occurring at night when traffic volumes are lower for the safety of motorists and workers. As a Nudgee local myself, I have been lulled to sleep on a number of occasions now by the repetitive sound of sheet piling and pile driving. I appreciate that construction noise associated with the motorway upgrade works has caused some concern in my community and want to acknowledge associated noise as a very real cost of such works. Noise post construction is also an ongoing concern to residents in Nudgee, particularly in the Circa estate backing on to the motorway. I have raised these concerns with the project team and the need for appropriate noise mitigation measures and treatments and will continue to do so at each of our regular project meetings.

The Gateway Upgrade North project is of tremendous significance, as I have said, not only to my and the neighbouring Sandgate electorate but also to the Queensland economy as a whole as it will reduce congestion and improve freight movements between the Port of Brisbane and the Brisbane Airport. Congestion means lost time, lost opportunity and lost revenue. This project, due for completion in late 2018, will support more than 1,000 jobs at a time when jobs and job security are more important

than ever. This government is continuing our momentum to deliver the projects we know Queensland needs to drive our economy, create local jobs and meet the projected needs of our rapidly growing region. The State Infrastructure Plan, State Infrastructure Fund and Building Queensland, along with market-led proposals, are about planning, prioritising and investing in the right infrastructure in the right place at the right time to grow Queensland's economy and support jobs.