




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR IPSWICH

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ADJOURNMENT

Ipswich Cycle Park

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (7.19 pm): I rise to speak about the new Ipswich Cycle Park and criterium track. The new cycle park is a \$3.3 million project jointly funded by the Queensland government, the Ipswich City Council and the 24/7 Safe Cycling Fund. It will provide competitive cyclists with a first-rate criterium track for training and competitive events and give recreational cyclists a safe and enjoyable space to ride. I am delighted that Minister Mick de Brenni and I have the pleasure of attending the official opening of the first stage of this world-class facility this Sunday.

The track was the vision of Troy Dobinson, an Ipswich cyclist and safety advocate who planned the cycle park after the death of his mother, Narelle Dobinson, who was tragically killed in a cycling accident on 24 July 2011. I want to sincerely thank Troy for envisioning this park for Ipswich and fighting so hard for it. Thanks also go to the Ipswich City Council, especially councillors Cheryl Bromage and David Morrison, who both worked hard to secure funding for the project.

Troy's tenacity helped bring the cycle park to fruition even when the Campbell Newman government was turning the park into a political football and there was a strong possibility that it may never go ahead. During the 2015 election campaign, Campbell Newman promised Ipswich voters that we could have our cycle park but only on the condition that we re-elect the then LNP member for Ipswich. Ipswich people cannot be bought, and they voted out the LNP and helped Labor to government in 2015.

The Ipswich Cycle Park, like all good projects, has gone ahead under the Palaszczuk government, and I was a very proud advocate for it from the outset. In the 2016-17 budget the Queensland government allocated a total of \$1.5 million in funding, through its Get Playing Plus initiative, to the cycle park's development, with another \$1.5 million in matched funding coming from the Ipswich City Council. The 24/7 Safe Cycling Fund contributed a whopping \$70,000 to the project through its own impressive fundraising efforts.

A factor for people deciding whether or not to take up cycling is the issue of road safety. This is of particular concern for women, who are much less likely to take up cycling for exercise or recreation or even to cycle to work because of concerns about their personal safety on the roads. A recent Heart Foundation survey found that 60 per cent of women would like to cycle more for health and fitness and fun and enjoyment, but to help encourage them to ride more they want improvements such as more bike lanes, better lighting of paths, and bike lanes that provide enough separation between themselves and cars. The new Ipswich Cycle Path will help encourage more women to take up cycling in a safe environment to improve their health and wellbeing.

Ipswich is a community passionate about sport and keen to participate in sporting activities that contribute to a healthier lifestyle. This new cycle park will mean that we can make it easier for people to get outside and get active.