




Speech By
Jennifer Howard

MEMBER FOR IPSWICH

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ADJOURNMENT

Ipswich Chamber of Commerce & Industry

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (7.09 pm): I am pleased to speak about growing business and investment in Ipswich and how the Ipswich Chamber of Commerce & Industry is providing leadership and support to the Ipswich business community. I believe that Ipswich has a prosperous future. While Ipswich has experienced some challenges recently, as the member for Ipswich I am determined to help build confidence within my local business community and raise awareness of Ipswich's potential as a great place to invest. I also want to assure the people of Ipswich that their city is in a strong position to capitalise on projects that will help their local economy thrive and generate jobs.

Recently, I attended the South-East Queensland regional projects forum, which was organised by the Ipswich office of the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning. The forum showcased significant projects in Ipswich and its surrounding regions that will generate hundreds of construction and operational jobs and many more created indirectly through wider supply chain activities. Ipswich will benefit from its proximity to projects like the Military Vehicle Centre of Excellence at Redbank, the Ipswich Hospital upgrade, the inland rail project and Cross River Rail.

A growing local economy cannot do without a good business support network. To that end, the people of Ipswich are fortunate to have the Ipswich Chamber of Commerce & Industry. The chamber plays a valuable role in building a more connected and informed business community and advocating strongly for investing in Ipswich. Although the Ipswich Chamber of Commerce & Industry is in its 112th year, it is looking ahead and capitalising on innovation to drive Ipswich towards a prosperous future.

For instance, the Ipswich Chamber of Commerce & Industry was one of the inaugural stakeholders of the Advancing Regional Innovation Program and it has launched the Ipswich region Food and Agribusiness Network to advance the food and agribusiness industries in Ipswich and its surrounds. The Ipswich Chamber of Commerce & Industry will partner with Trade and Investment Queensland to represent Ipswich at the Smart City Summit in Taipei next year. The Ipswich Chamber of Commerce & Industry provides business support and mentoring through successful initiatives, such as the Ipswich Indigenous Business Networking Breakfast, the Business Women Connect morning tea, the Bremer State High School senior mentoring program and the Domestic and Family Violence, it is your business! morning tea.

The Ipswich Chamber of Commerce & Industry also recognises business success through its City of Ipswich Business Excellence Awards. For over 30 years, the awards have celebrated Ipswich businesses and employees who have contributed to the continued growth of the local Ipswich economy. These awards will be held again this year on 20 October. As proof that the Ipswich local economy is growing strongly, more than 700 nominations were received for this year's awards, exceeding the number of nominations last year by 62 per cent. The Ipswich Chamber of Commerce & Industry has a long and proud heritage of supporting Ipswich businesses. I would like to thank the president, Phillip Bell, and his right-hand person, Carol Levin, and the rest of the team at the chamber and all of the businesses in Ipswich for their tireless advocacy of Ipswich and support of local businesses.