

## **Question on Notice**

**No. 1710**

**Asked on Tuesday 10 November 2009**

**MRS KEECH** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR MAIN ROADS (MR WALLACE)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise of the benefits to the motorists of Albert with the completion of the transition to free-flow tolling on the Gateway and Logan Motorways?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Albert for her question. Yes, the transition to free-flow tolling on the Gateway Bridge, Gateway Extension and Logan Motorway is now complete.

The final transition to free-flow tolling began in July 2009, and already we have seen a reduction in accidents around the tolling points of up to 80% and travel time savings of 10 minutes on average for motorists travelling across the network. Improvements in air quality around the tolling points are also expected as there is no longer a need to queue to pay the toll.

Motorists from Albert and surrounds will already be benefitting from these improvements brought by the introduction of free-flow tolling on the Gateway Bridge, Gateway Extension and Logan Motorway.

In addition, these constituents are ideally situated to further benefit from the broader Gateway Upgrade Project which will provide better connections for business, industry and tourism including easier travel between the Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast and improved access to Brisbane Airport and the Australia TradeCoast precinct.

Of particular note for motorists from Albert, free-flow tolling in conjunction with the soon to open new access route to the airport constructed as part of the Gateway Upgrade Project will provide them with a faster, more direct route from the Pacific Motorway to Brisbane airport. No traffic lights, no roundabouts, no stopping at toll plazas.

With the introduction of free-flow tolling and the removal of toll booths along the Logan Motorway, residents and businesses from suburbs like Mt Warren Park, Yatala and Oxenford can benefit from more efficient, less interrupted travel through to Ipswich and beyond.

The safety, environmental and travel time reliability benefits of free-flow tolling for all motorists are clear. The successful transition to free-flow tolling on the Gateway and Logan Motorways is a key demonstration of the Bligh government's commitment to easing congestion in South-East Queensland.