



Rachel Nolan MP for Ipswich

Delivering for Ipswich

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CBD to be revamped with new legal precinct

Work will start next year on the biggest CBD building project in a decade as a result of \$90 million being allocated in the Budget for a new Ipswich Legal Precinct.



Rachel outside new legal precinct site

The precinct will comprise a courthouse and watchhouse (\$75 million) and a new police station (\$15.8 million).

The old TAFE Workshops site in Ellenborough Street has been purchased for the new complex which will include 13 courts and working space for 170 police officers. A courthouse design was selected after public consultation in December 2005 and the whole centre will be operational in 2008.

The new precinct will significantly revitalise the CBD. In recent years the State has invested substantial funds in central Ipswich, providing joint funding for the mall upgrade and RiverHeart projects as well as restoring the historic Old Courthouse and constructing a new Child Safety centre in Brisbane Street.

This legal precinct will provide substantial new public buildings in the city as well as bringing more operational police to the central city. ●

Ipswich Hospital shares in massive health funding boost

Ipswich is receiving its share of the 24% health funding increase announced in the June State Budget with 66 new beds opened in the West Moreton Health District in recent months and a \$130,000 boost to cardiology services.

"A total of \$17.6 million has been allocated to open 66 new beds in the West Moreton Health District," Ms Nolan said.

"That substantial sum will ensure the continuing high quality of care provided at Ipswich Hospital and the range of services such as Positive Parenting, Maternal and Child Health, nutrition and cardiac rehab offered through the Health Plaza.

"Ipswich Hospital is widely recognised for combining first-class care with a friendly local atmosphere. I receive far more warm letters of thanks than I ever do complaints and this substantial funding boost will ensure that quality of care continues." ●

"That substantial sum will ensure the continuing high quality of care provided at Ipswich Hospital"

Budget Funds New Mental Health Crisis Team

A new mental health intervention team will put police on the front foot in dealing with call-outs to people who are mentally ill.

The new teams will comprise police officers who have received specialised training in dealing with mental health crisis situations. The Budget commits \$96,000 to establish the Ipswich team which will ultimately allow for one trained officer to be on duty in every shift.

Member for Ipswich Rachel Nolan said that the number of call-outs to people who were behaving erratically and endangering themselves and others was on the rise.

"There is now irrefutable evidence that the abuse of drugs including marijuana triggers mental illness. This is causing a marked increase to people whose behaviour is more erratic than criminal but who require much more than a traditional policing response.

One such case ended in the tragic police shooting of a mentally ill man at Coalfalls earlier this year.

The Mental Health Intervention Team is part of a comprehensive Budget commitment to improving mental health services. It comes on top of \$627,000 from a state-wide commitment of \$18 million to support community mental health services in the West Moreton Health Service District. ●



Rachel Nolan outside Ipswich Hospital

Around the Electorate

Centenary Highway to extend to Yamanto by 2009

The State Budget allocates \$11 million this year for the extension of the Centenary Highway from Springfield through the future growth area of Ripley and on to the Cunningham Highway at Yamanto.

Tenders for construction have now been called with work due to commence late this year and be finished around mid 2009. The total project will cost \$270 million.

The extended Centenary Highway will provide an alternative route between Ipswich and Brisbane and stands in stark contrast to the Howard Government's record on roads. While the Beattie Government is building this completely new road, Canberra simply refuses to fund the full upgrade of the Ipswich Motorway, a road which, as part of the National Highway, is a 100% federal funding responsibility.

The Centenary Highway extension comprises just part of the \$77.5 million in overall roads funding for the Ipswich area. This year state-wide roads funding is up by 58% on the year before.

New Water Saving Project at Raceview State Primary School

Raceview State School students are set to teach the rest of us a lesson in how to be water wise with the State Budget allocating \$27,778 for a school-wide system of tanks.

The underground concrete tanks will capture the school's runoff rainwater from roofs, bitumen and concrete areas so that it can then be used to irrigate the school's playgrounds and sports fields.

The funding for Raceview State School is part of the Labor Government's Smart Schools Subsidy Scheme which will provide \$13.56 million over the next three years to support local projects.

Limestone Park Netball Redevelopment

A major redevelopment of the Limestone Park netball courts is on course to be completed by the end of August.

The upgrades will see reconstruction of 8 existing asphalt courts and the development of 8 existing grass courts into asphalt, making a total of 24 courts at the park.



Cr David Morrison and Rachel Nolan on site at Limestone Park netball courts

Member for Ipswich Rachel Nolan said the upgrades also include improvements to existing court lighting with the installation of new lights to all 24 asphalt courts and a new amenities building.

"On completion, the total project will have cost approximately \$834,000," Ms Nolan said.

"Ipswich is an active city and Limestone Park is very much our sporting heart. These netball upgrades will ensure that the thousands of children and adults who are regular netball players will now have access to first-class facilities for day and night games."

The project has been jointly funded with money allocated in the 2005 State Budget and funds provided by the Ipswich City Council.

Ipswich receives new skills centre

Ipswich will, for the first time, see a new Skilling Solutions Centre with funds allocated in this year's State Budget.

Both the community and business are abuzz at the moment with talk of job opportunities and skills shortages.

The new Ipswich Skills Centre will provide face-to-face advice, information and assistance on training and career opportunities to Ipswich people.

The contrast between the State Labor Government and the Howard Government couldn't be clearer, Ms Nolan said.

"While Canberra is harshly slicing at the minimum wage and job protections, the State Labor Government is extending locally based support for Ipswich workers."



Message from Rachel Nolan

The 2006-2007 Budget is proof that the Labor Government is backing its rhetoric of building the New Ipswich with serious investment in the city.

The new \$90 million Legal Precinct will be the biggest public investment in the CBD in decades and closely follows the new Child Safety Centre soon to be completed in Limestone Street, the mall upgrade and RiverHeart projects part-funded by the State and the refurbishment of the historic Old Courthouse.

The Budget also improves local services. Ipswich will receive its share of the 24% Health funding hike and local schools will benefit from the new \$1 billion package to refurbish older state schools.

While the Opposition rarely utter the word 'Ipswich' in the Parliament – let alone make an appearance here – the Labor Government recognises Ipswich as one of Queensland's key regional cities and is building the infrastructure Ipswich needs as a major growth corridor for the future.

Rachel Nolan MP
State Member for Ipswich

Ipswich station platforms fixed

An ongoing problem with a high step from trains to the platform at Ipswich Railway Station is about to be fixed with a \$200,000 project to raise the platforms.

"In the last couple of years a number of people have complained to me that there is a substantial step from trains to the platform. The problem was difficult to rectify as platforms had to be lower so coal trains could navigate the curbing station without hitting the platform," Member for Ipswich Rachel Nolan said.

The work done in April has raised Platforms 1 and 2. All Citytrains will now leave from those platforms, making it easier for passengers to step on and off. ●