



RACHEL NOLAN MP

Member for Ipswich

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LABOR GOVERNMENT HAS PROVEN RECORD OF CREATING NEW IPSWICH **(unlike the Liberals who would be hard pressed to find it)**

With the election called today, Labor Member for Ipswich Rachel Nolan said now was the time for Ipswich people to stick with a government that had very much stuck with them.

“This Labor Government has shown a greater commitment to Ipswich than any other government in modern history,” Ms Nolan said.

“We are creating the new Ipswich.”

“The Premier has spent a lot of time in Ipswich, coining the phrase *The New Ipswich* and backing his words with substantial infrastructure and service improvements.

“Our Regional Plan revolutionises South East Queensland’s growth patterns with the primary purpose of drawing people to the west and we are backing that plan with new infrastructure.

“Ipswich has thrived under this Labor Government, Ms Nolan said. In the five years that I’ve been member, changes have included –

- *A strong economy.* Local unemployment has fallen by 20% and new industry is on the way with projects such as Capral, Lafarge and the State Government’s purchase of land at Amberley for an aerospace park
- *The resurgence of Ipswich population growth.* Five years ago, Ipswich’s population was stagnant, now it’s growing at 3-4% a year
- *Better health services :* Ipswich Hospital and community health services now see 31,791 patients a year (up from 23,676 in 2000-01). The local Health Budget has just had a massive boost, up \$14 million to \$208 million in the recent State Budget
- *Better public schools.* Prep is set to start in 2007 and senior school retention rates have improved
- *Falling crime.* Police numbers have increased from 257 five years ago to 321 now and crime is falling – with break and enters down by 800 a year over the period despite population growth

In addition, Ms Nolan has been a leading voice for sustainability and has worked to improve the quality of the Bremer River and to protect the Flinders-Karawatha corridor.

“I am an Ipswich person born and bred and I am more than happy to stand on this record of delivering for Ipswich people,” Ms Nolan said.

“It is a massive contrast to the Liberal and National Parties who show so little interest in the place that they would need a refidex to find it.

“The Liberals are running a candidate here but in the last five years, the Leader of the Liberal Party has mentioned the word ‘Ipswich’ in Parliament just three times. Mr Springborg’s interest has not been much better.*”

“It’s a bit rich for the Coalition parties to start claiming some kind of deep-seated commitment to the people of Queensland’s fourth largest city now.

Ms Nolan promised her opponents a fair and open contest.

“I’ve always been a pretty open and straight talking sort of person. I play the ball, not the man and will continue to do so in this election.

*figures compiled by the Parliamentary Library. Liberal Party figure relates to then leader Mr Quinn