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FUNDING BOOST FOR LOCAL LEGACIES

IPSWICH City Council will receive \$1.25 million as a Queensland Government contribution to building an environmental education centre in Queens Park in time for Queensland's 150th birthday in 2009.

Member for Ipswich Rachel Nolan today announced the project as one of 79 to be funded under the Legacy Infrastructure Funding program, a \$100 million capital works program to create legacies for Queensland's 150th anniversary.

Laidley, Gatton and Esk Shires were also announced as funding recipients.

"2009 is an important year for our State and we need to ensure there are lasting reminders of this milestone," Ms Nolan said.

"The State Government has identified 79 projects across the State to date that we believe will create a legacy and be enjoyed by generations to come. The Queens Park Environment Education Centre, as well as projects in Gatton, Laidley and Esk, have all been identified as such projects and I'm delighted the Premier and the Local Government Minister Andrew Fraser have given their support to them."

The Queens Park Environment Education Centre is intended to educate children, students and the general community on environmentally significant issues such as the development and maintenance of natural areas, improvement of public and private places, and techniques for reducing water consumption.

Member for Ipswich West Wayne Wendt welcomed a series of projects in the rural areas and centres around the city of Ipswich.

Gatton Shire Council will receive \$3 million for the construction of an arts and cultural centre, incorporating a library, art gallery and Queensland transport museum at Lake Apex. The centre will create a lasting tribute to the Lockyer Valley's farming and trucking heritage, as well as much-needed community facilities.

Esk Shire Council will be able to build a library to house railway memorabilia thanks to its \$490,000 funding from the State Government.

Laidley Shire Council will receive \$25,000 for the relocation of the former Blenheim Baptist Church to the Laidley Pioneer Village, where it will be restored and made available for community and special events.

"So much of Queensland's history is rooted in Ipswich and its surrounds," Mr Wendt said.

“It is fitting then that these areas are a part of providing a legacy for the future.”

The projects were required to meet specific criteria.

“When The State Government asked Councils to submit their proposals last year, it was looking for practical tributes - that is, projects that would provide real and lasting benefits to the community for years to come,” Mr Wendt said.

Each the Councils was now required to submit a project plan confirming a 2008 completion date and demonstrate their ability to secure any additional funds required to undertake the project.