



Speech by

Hon. Rachel Nolan

MEMBER FOR IPSWICH

Hansard Thursday, 12 November 2009

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

TravelSmart

Hon. RG NOLAN (Ipswich—ALP) (Minister for Transport) (10.12 am): The Bligh government is getting on with the job of addressing congestion and boosting sustainable travel in South-East Queensland as part of our healthy and green Q2 targets. Travel demand management is a key part of a modern, sustainable transport system. For that reason, the Bligh government is rolling out a proven program that uses direct engagement and community awareness and education as a means of increasing sustainable transport practices.

The Brisbane north TravelSmart project concluded in 2006 and delivered a nine per cent increase in walking, a 58 per cent increase in cycling and a 22 per cent increase in public transport usage. The project reduced 114 million kilometres from private car travel, equating to a 13 per cent reduction in vehicle kilometres travelled in private cars—an extraordinary result.

The Bligh government is now in the process of extending the TravelSmart initiative to households throughout Brisbane's south and west as well as the Gold Coast and the Sunshine Coast. TravelSmart Communities projects are right now working with householders to reduce reliance on cars and encourage people to use healthier, more environmentally friendly forms of travel such as public transport, walking, cycling and car pooling. In recent months, 49,000 residents living in the targeted areas of Brisbane's southern and western suburbs have already received a letter of invitation to be part of the TravelSmart program. We are following up with a phone call, a service sheet and the delivery of a tailored information pack that is aimed at assisting residents with their travel behaviour change. So far more than 8,000 TravelSmart information packs have been delivered and early results have indicated 34 per cent of residents contacted are interested in participating in the TravelSmart program.

In early 2010, the invitation to participate in TravelSmart will be extended to residents of Carindale, Mansfield, Wishart, Upper Mount Gravatt, Mount Gravatt East, Holland Park West and Greenslopes.

Mr Reeves: That sounds like my electorate.

Ms NOLAN: It does sound a lot like the minister's electorate. Other suburbs will follow later in the year. I encourage residents in these areas to participate in the program by choosing alternative travel options to their car. Participants benefit by leading a healthier, happier lifestyle and the community benefits because there are fewer vehicles on the road, meaning less congestion and fewer harmful exhaust emissions. The Bligh government's TravelSmart program is assisting us reach our green and healthy targets as we head toward Q2.