



Speech by

Hon. Rachel Nolan

MEMBER FOR IPSWICH

Hansard Thursday, 20 August 2009

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

ClimateQ

Hon. RG NOLAN (Ipswich—ALP) (Minister for Transport) (9.55 am): The Bligh government is committed to doing everything we can to protect our environment and mitigate the impact of climate change. Improving our public transport, providing more efficient freight movement, cutting congestion and reducing vehicle emissions will all be important parts of combating climate change.

The government's ClimateQ initiatives are aimed at helping combat congestion while promoting a cleaner, greener environment. The Queensland taxi industry consists of more than 3,000 vehicles and is responsible for about 100,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions. That is why the government will spend \$70,000 to encourage the use of low-emission vehicles, such as petrol/electric hybrids, in the taxi fleet, by giving a preference to tenders for taxi licences where the operator agrees to operate a green vehicle. We will also expand the highly successful TravelSmart project that encourages communities to adopt more sustainable travel options by presenting detailed information about ways to get around without simply hopping in the car.

TravelSmart Workplaces and Events is a \$5.2 million project to engage with major Queensland workplaces and event managers to develop sustainable travel plans designed to encourage people to reduce car trips with walking, jogging, cycling or public transport. TravelSmart Schools is a \$5 million project to encourage school communities to adopt sustainable travel options such as walking, cycling and car pooling and minimising private car travel.

These programs will assist in reducing travel congestion and greenhouse gas emissions as well as provide opportunities for people to be more active. Commencing this year, the Bligh government will encourage motorists to offset their vehicle's greenhouse gas emissions by matching voluntary contributions from motorists dollar for dollar up to a maximum funding limit of \$4½ million. For example, if it costs \$80 to offset an average car for one year the Bligh government will match an individual motorist's voluntary contribution of \$40 with another \$40 in state funded subsidy to fully offset the vehicle.

We know that no government can fight climate change on its own. That is why we are committed to putting in place measures that help Queenslanders work with us to make a difference from the ground up.