



Speech by

# Hon. Rachel Nolan

MEMBER FOR IPSWICH

Hansard Wednesday, 7 October 2009

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## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Rail Infrastructure

**Hon. RG NOLAN** (Ipswich—ALP) (Minister for Transport) (10.28 am): The Bligh government is one of the few in the country that is building new railway lines and more trains to deliver green public transport to our growing communities. Just over a week ago, along with the member for Burleigh, Christine Smith, I inspected yet another major milestone at the government's Robina to Varsity Lakes rail extension project. I am pleased to inform the House that the new 4.1 kilometre dual rail track is now complete. Upon becoming transport minister in March, one of the first things I did was visit this project, alongside the Premier, to commence track laying. Now, just six months later, the 4.1 kilometre track is complete and extends all the way to the new Varsity Lakes station. In six months around 12,000 concrete sleepers, more than 1,000 tonnes of rail, 23,000 tonnes of ballast, 132 masts and 40 kilometres of overhead wires have been used to construct the bidirectional electrified track. This \$324 million project forms a critical part of the Bligh government's job-creating \$18.2 million infrastructure program, and running alongside the new track is the largest delivery of new trains since electrification.