



Speech by

Hon. Rachel Nolan

MEMBER FOR IPSWICH

Hansard Wednesday, 16 September 2009

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Cycling

Hon. RG NOLAN (Ipswich—ALP) (Minister for Transport) (10.19 am): One of the primary challenges facing a growing South-East Queensland continues to be urban congestion. We can address it by building better roads and public transport—as everyone can see the Bligh government is doing—but we can also address it by giving people active travel choices. At present in South-East Queensland, just one per cent of journeys to work are taken by bicycle. As an active cyclist myself, one of my key priorities is to see that figure grow. With a phenomenal three-quarters of Brisbane car trips being 10 kilometres or less, cycling is well placed to take some of the load off the road network, particularly in peak periods.

The Bligh government is an active government with a well-established commitment to cycling. We promote cycling through our partnership with Bicycle Queensland. We have built the fantastic King George Square cycle centre, creating end-of-trip facilities in the CBD. All major new highways, like the Gateway and Ipswich Motorway projects, include cycle paths and we are rolling out a \$556 million South-East Queensland cycle network.

Through that program, today I announce \$29 million for 56 projects that will provide a further 69 kilometres of cycle infrastructure this financial year. The projects, which are funded on a 50-50 basis with councils, are a further step towards our goal of creating a network of cycleways stretching from Noosa through greater Brisbane, Ipswich and Toowoomba to the Gold Coast.

Iconic projects in this latest funding include completing links in the Moreton Bay cycleway and expanding connections to the Brassall bikeway in Ipswich. One project to be completed before the end of this year is a new bridge over Enoggera Creek at Herston. This bridge will provide a link from the Wilston area to the CBD and the new \$8 million Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital cycle centre, which is due to open next month.

The state government's \$556 million plan by 2026 includes \$223 million for cycle paths in greater Brisbane, \$139 million for cycle paths on the Gold Coast, \$139 million for cycle paths on the Sunshine Coast, and \$55 million for cycle paths in Ipswich and Toowoomba. The Bligh government is strongly committed to making the south-east a cycling city by building better cycling infrastructure through the South-East Queensland Cycle Network Program.