



Speech By
Leanne Linard

MEMBER FOR NUDGE

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Nudgee Electorate, Infrastructure

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (12.52 pm): Last week I visited the Gateway Upgrade North worksite between the Nudgee interchange and Nundah Creek in my electorate. The Gateway Upgrade North project will widen an 11.3-kilometre section of the motorway from four lanes to six lanes between Nudgee and Bracken Ridge and, in so doing, address a long-term congestion issue in Brisbane's north. This almost \$1.2 billion project will change the lives of the estimated 80,000 motorists who commute on this road daily and daily spend additional precious time delayed in the bottleneck that has become known as the 'Nudgee car park'. As well as two extra lanes, wider road shoulders will be built, new safety barriers will be installed, local drivers will be separated from busy motorway traffic—reducing the need to weave across lanes in peak travel times—the Nudgee interchange will be reconfigured with a new Nudgee Road overpass and extended northbound on-ramp and a new shared path for pedestrians and cyclists will be built along the upgrade.

This project is of tremendous significance not only to my electorate and that of my neighbour, the member for Sandgate, but also to the Queensland economy as a whole as it will reduce congestion and improve freight movements between the Port of Brisbane and the Brisbane Airport. Congestion means lost time, lost opportunity and lost revenue. This project, due for completion in late 2018, will also support more than 1,000 direct jobs at a time when jobs and job security are more important than ever.

The Palaszczuk government is getting on with the job of planning for and investing in the infrastructure that Queensland needs to drive our economy, create local jobs and meet the projected needs of our rapidly growing region. The State Infrastructure Plan, State Infrastructure Fund and Building Queensland, along with market-led proposals, is about planning, prioritising and investing in the right infrastructure in the right place at the right time to grow Queensland's economy and support jobs. I recall the launch of the South East Queensland Regional Infrastructure Plan and the establishment of the Office of Urban Development in 2005 by former treasurer and deputy premier Terry Mackenroth. It represented a significant reform in infrastructure, planning and delivery then as this statewide infrastructure plan does now, mapping out a transparent four-year pipeline of projects. The State Infrastructure Plan, underpinned by the establishment of Building Queensland to provide our government with independent expert advice, will ensure that infrastructure projects are prioritised based on rigorous business cases, including cost-benefit analyses and community benefits. These reforms are in stark contrast to the LNP's record when in government, when it failed to deliver a single infrastructure plan during its three years in office.

The Gateway Upgrade North project is just one of the big-ticket projects that the Palaszczuk government is investing in to meet future growth demands and drive economic growth and jobs. Others include the Moreton Bay Rail Link and New Generation Rollingstock. As the Minister for Transport and his office know well from my regular emails, letters, briefing requests and lobbying, Nudgee is a commuters' paradise, with 12 railway stations across my electorate.

While talking about infrastructure improvements in my local community, I would like to acknowledge the additional commuter car parking and pedestrian access improvements that have been approved for Banyo Railway Station by Queensland Rail following our meetings to discuss my community's concerns in this regard. Commuter car parking at the station will increase by almost 40 per cent and will be built in conjunction with the Banyo stabling project and a pedestrian footbridge will be constructed to assist with safe access to the station. I look forward to continuing to work with the minister and Queensland Rail to secure further station upgrades across my electorate as commuter car parking continues to be a significant concern to local residents.

Whether it is the almost \$60,000 spent at Zillmere State School on upgrading the playground, road safety improvements outside local schools or the \$1.2 billion on the Gateway Upgrade North project, this investment means jobs, it means economic growth and it signals progress for the people of my electorate and for Queensland more broadly. Our government will continue to do everything within its power to boost business confidence, attract investment and partner with business and industry to deliver new job-creating projects and infrastructure.

I note from recent figures released by the Treasurer that Queensland's unemployment rate remains steady at six per cent, which equates to 61,300 new jobs created since the election, or 1,960 full-time jobs created every month. I compare those figures to the 360 full-time jobs that were lost monthly under the previous LNP government. These figures are not simply numbers; every one of those 1,960 full-time jobs created each month—to use the Treasurer's words—is a Queenslanders starting their first job, getting back after a long search, or a family getting a second income.

As our economy undergoes a period of structural change and diversification, we have the infrastructure plan and Advance Queensland vision in place to promote and attract the new investment that is needed to maximise the economic opportunities and jobs of both today and tomorrow.