

**Anna Bligh**  
**KEEP**  
**QUEENSLAND**  
**STRONG.**



# **EFFECTIVE ROADS FOR SEQ**

**Queensland Election 2009**

26 February 2009



## Effective Roads For SEQ

The Bligh Government has a plan to deliver a network to support record growth in south-east Queensland for the next 10 years.

We need to make sure that the work continues to deliver the world-class network that south-east Queensland needs.

This policy builds on the achievements of the Labor Government, which has resealed, rehabilitated, widened, realigned or upgraded more than 51,000km of roads across Queensland.

We have also built more than 1270km of new routes or deviations, 432 major bridges or culverts and 19 new pedestrian overpasses across the state.

But any road is only as good as the systems that manage it and research has show that as much as 25% of congestion in SEQ is due to vehicle crashes or breakdowns.

That's why we will introduce a new Fast Incident Response Initiative to support the measures we have already put in place to beat congestion on SEQ roads.

This plan will:

- Introduce two new specially designed heavy vehicle recovery units capable of lifting heavy trucks and semi-trailers from the roadways of south-east Queensland
- Establish new incident response depots on our major arterials
- 24-7 police officer co-ordination in the Metropolitan Traffic Management Centre and throughout the traffic incident response system
- Introduce new special incident cameras that take 360 degree images of the accident scene to speed up the time taken to record the scene of an accident

## Effective Roads for SEQ

The Bligh Government has a record road infrastructure budget for south-east Queensland, with \$7.9 billion allocated for road construction.

Queensland has experienced unprecedented growth in the past 10 years. Our population is still increasing at about 1800 people a week and more than two-thirds are settling in the south-east corner.

We need to make sure that we build the infrastructure we need to keep south-east Queensland moving and roads are a key part of this solution.

A re-elected Labor Government will continue its record road construction budget, with \$7.9 billion to be spent on road construction in south-east Queensland up to 2013.

**This program will deliver 61,620 jobs for Queenslanders.** Substantial projects have been completed in south-east Queensland as part of successive record road construction programs delivered by Labor. These projects have included:

- Completion of the \$543 million Tugun Bypass, which means motorists can now drive from Gympie to the New South Wales border without encountering a traffic light
- Commencement of the \$1.88 billion Gateway Bridge duplication, which is now 60 per cent complete has featured staged openings of new works such as the extra lanes to the Wynnum Road exit
- Upgraded Wynnum Road between Stanton Road to the east and Graystone Street to the west as part of the early works for the Gateway Upgrade Project
- Delivery of the \$111 million Sunshine Motorway upgrade and Maroochy River bridge duplication
- Adding bus priority lanes to Smith Street on the Gold Coast at a cost of \$19.8 million
- Completing the \$52.5 million four-laning of Brisbane-Beenleigh Road
- Opening a new \$32 million road to link the Gympie Arterial Road and South Pine Road at Brendale
- Constructing a \$40 million four-lane link on Centenary Highway between the Ipswich Motorway interchange and Garden Road ramps, and an overpass at Boundary Road and Kelliher Road at Darra
- Upgrading Boundary Road at Thornlands, widening the road to four lanes between Panorama Drive and Cleveland-Redland Bay Road, at a cost of \$18.4 million
- Completing the first stage of the \$21.3 million Gold Coast Highway upgrade, between Stevens and Roberts streets.
- The \$3.4 billion Airport Link project - the largest road project in Australia - connecting the City and the Northern Suburbs to the Airport via a tunnel network.

## Effective Roads for SEQ

### Special congestion busting measures since Anna Bligh became Premier:

- In December 2007 the State Government funded a heavy tow truck for the quick clearance of heavy vehicle breakdowns on the Gateway Motorway South.
- The service was a success - cutting clearance times on Gateway South from an average of three hours to an average of just 30 minutes.
- The Government rolled out two more of the quick clearance heavy tow trucks to provide a free service on South East Queensland roads in August 2008.
- One of the vehicles now services all the state-controlled roads in greater Brisbane during peak hours and high demand times at Gateway North.
- The other is dedicated to the Logan and Ipswich Motorways and will be based near the Ipswich Motorway interchange.
- New 'Open Roads' legislation was introduced as part of the Bligh government's response to tackling congestion in south-east Queensland.
- The congestion busting law - contained in the wide reaching Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2008 - will strengthened powers for officers to quickly clear obstructions from roads.
- The law gave police powers to order the removal of cargo and stricken vehicles from our roads without first having to seek permission from the owner.
- New peak time police motorcycle and car patrols to detect and manage incidents faster started on August 28.

The scheme means there is at least one congestion patrol in the morning and afternoon peak times (6am to 9am and 3pm to 6pm) on Monday to Friday in the designated sectors of; Pacific Motorway (City to Springwood), Gateway (Brisbane River to Miles Platting Road), Logan Motorway (Springwood Oxenford to Ipswich Motorway), Ipswich Motorway (Moorooka to Warrego Highway), Bruce Highway (Burpengary to Aspley) and Gateway Motorway (Brisbane River to Pine River).

- A new contractual framework for toll roads to prevent gridlock in the case of an emergency on one or more of Brisbane's main arterial roads.
- The new regulations will prevent gouging or profiteering from private toll road operators could claim inflated compensation from the Government because of increased traffic numbers during such an emergency.

## Effective Roads for SEQ

A re-elected Bligh Government will:

- **Implement a Fast Incident Response Plan**

As much as 25 per cent of congestion in south-east Queensland is due to vehicle crashes or breakdowns.

Across the Brisbane road network, there is an average of one accident a week involving a heavy vehicle rollover. In 2007-08, more than 500 truck crashes caused delays to the travelling public in the south-east.

The use of heavy vehicle tow trucks on the Gateway and Logan motorways has resulted in the reduction of incident clearing times from an average of three hours to an average of about 30 minutes.

The \$12.3 million Fast Incident Response package includes:

- \$6.5 million for two specially designed heavy vehicle recovery units capable of lifting heavy trucks and semi-trailers from the roadways of south-east Queensland. These trucks will have the capacity to lift heavy vehicles and trailers, whether they are upright or rolled, and remove debris and cargo from roadways. The first is expected to be in operation by mid-2009
- \$4 million for four fixed incident response depots to service the Bruce Highway, the Centenary Motorway, Pacific Motorway and Gateway South and;
- Three mobile depots based at Nathan (Pacific Mwy), Deagon (Gateway North) and Brassall (Warrego Hwy/ Ipswich Mwy) for recovery and emergency equipment and signage with fast access to key traffic corridors and heavily trafficked roads
- \$1.2 million for 24-7 police officer co-ordination in the Metropolitan Traffic Management Centre and throughout the traffic incident response system
- \$630,000 for three special incident cameras that take 360 degree images of the accident scene to go to the South Coast, North Coast and Ipswich/ Toowoomba. This will speed up the time taken to record the scene of an accident to be introduced before May 2009

The money for this \$12.3 million initiative has been allocated in the Main Roads forward budget for the congestion taskforce.

## For further information

For further information about this or any other of Anna Bligh's policies

- go to [www.anna4qld.com.au](http://www.anna4qld.com.au)
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