



## ***MEDIA RELEASE***

***TIM MULHERIN, M.P.***  
**Member for Mackay**

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### **Forgan Bridge commemorates city pioneers**

As construction on the Forgan Bridge Replacement continues to progress well, Mackay residents are being asked to consider the history behind the name of one of the city's oldest structures.

Member for Mackay Tim Mulherin said the original Forgan Bridge was opened in 1938 by the former premier's wife, Mrs William Forgan Smith, as a replacement for the earlier Sydney Street Bridge.

"Prior to the opening, the premier was given the honour of choosing a name for the new bridge, as he had been a great supporter of its construction," Mr Mulherin said.

"He chose to name it the Forgan Bridge in memory of his mother, Mary Forgan. However, many people still refer to it as the 'Forgan Smith' Bridge.

"The fact William Forgan Smith was such a pivotal figure in Mackay's history helps to explain why many local people assume the bridge is a commemoration of his lifetime achievements."

Mr Mulherin said William Forgan Smith made a huge contribution both to Queensland and Mackay.

"Mr Forgan Smith was the premier of Queensland for 10 years and the member for Mackay for more than 25 years," he said.

"Throughout his time as premier during the Great Depression, he was an avid supporter of capital works projects, such as the construction of Mackay Outer Harbour and the Forgan Bridge.

"These projects were instrumental in providing work to Queenslanders during hard economical times."

Mr Mulherin said the Forgan Bridge Replacement Project was scheduled for completion in late 2010, weather permitting.

"Once completed, the new Forgan Bridge will provide motorists in Mackay with a new four-lane bridge across the Pioneer River, at a cost of \$128 million," he said.

"The new Forgan Bridge will undoubtedly be a fitting tribute to the many hard-working people who have been involved in the bridge's remarkable history."

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