



## POLICEBEAT >>



RF171833

■ Safe idea . . . Leightons strategic development manager Renaye Peters with Mabel Park State High student Richard Grant at the launch of Leighton Contractors' 2009 Youth Drive Safe Initiative.

# Road safety top priority

LOGAN secondary students are set to benefit from a new driving program that aims to reduce the high fatality rate among young Queensland drivers.

The Leighton Contractors' 2009 Youth Drive Safe Initiative was launched on Friday after a successful trial last year.

The program will give 625 school-based learner licence holders – or those eligible for a learner licence – from Brisbane, Ipswich, Logan, Caboolture and Townsville five hours of free learner driver training in a bid to promote road safety.

Last year, Queensland road users aged 17-24 accounted for 22 per cent of

the state's road toll, despite representing just 12 per cent of the population.

Leighton Contractors strategic development manager Renaye Peters said the statistic made the second instalment of the initiative vital.

"It's about improving the understanding and responsibility young drivers take on when they get their learner's licence," Ms Peters, whose company is carrying out the Ipswich/Logan interchange upgrade on Ipswich Motorway, said.

"We hope the kids get some great skills and share them with their peers. One parent involved in the pilot said, 'even if this program saves one life, it's worth it'."