



# Drive to slash youth road toll

By BRENT O'NEILL

A PROGRAM aimed at cutting high fatality rates among young Queensland drivers was launched in Ipswich on Friday.

After a successful pilot last year, the Leighton Contractors' Youth Drive Safe initiative will hand five hours of free learner driver training to 625 school-based learner license holders or those old enough to learn.

In 2008, road users aged 17-24 accounted for 22 per cent of Queensland's road toll, despite representing just 12 per cent of the population.

Leighton Contractors' strategic development manager Renaye Peters said that statistic made the second instalment of the initiative a necessity.

"It's about improving the understanding and responsibility young drivers take on when they get their learner's license," Ms Peters said.

"We hope the kids get some great skills and share them with their peers."

Leighton Contractors is carrying out the Ipswich/Logan interchange works on the Ipswich Motorway.



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■ Improving skills . . . Leighton Contractors' Renaye Peters with Mabel Park State High student Richard Grant at the launch of the Youth Drive Safe initiative. **Picture: Ric Frearson**