



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard 20 July 1999

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

South Bank Parklands; Grand Arbour

Hon. P. D. BEATTIE (Brisbane Central— ALP) (Premier) (9.46 a.m.), by leave: This can-do Government simply continues to deliver for Queensland. The South Bank Parklands are a stage closer to their full glory as a world-class open air leisure facility on a par with such icons as Copenhagen's Tivoli Gardens. Last week, on Thursday, 15 July, I officially opened the first stage of the bougainvillea-covered Grand Arbour, which will be a kilometre of colour that will attract attention from around the world when it is completed in September. This will put Brisbane on the world map.

The Grand Arbour will be a great attraction that we believe is unique. It will provide a natural access route from one end of South Bank to the other and stand up to nine metres tall and up to 14 metres wide. It will be covered in one variety of bougainvillea grown specifically for the project and is part of a \$12m improvement of the gardens that will showcase Queensland natives, flowers and shrubs to the world. In its growing stage, four staff members will be employed on the Grand Arbour to remove litter daily, dethorn the bougainvillea and remove leaf and flower drops weekly.

My Government is delighted with Brisbane's response to the changing face of South Bank. Already more than five million visitors come to South Bank each year, but this number will grow as other stages of the redevelopment gradually open over the next year. Grey Street is being lined with trees and opened up to two-way traffic to provide better access to the parklands from the Cultural Centre, apartments and shops. A new street called Little Stanley Street will link Grey Street and the parklands, featuring offices, shops, hotels, theatres and cinemas, cafes and apartments. A pedestrian and cycle bridge will span the river from Queensland University of Technology to the Maritime Museum end of South Bank. The Queensland College of Art will move to the cultural precinct this year, bringing with it a continuing community program. This Government is delivering for Queensland. This is a can-do Government.
