



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard 15 September 1999

SOUTH BANK CORPORATION AMENDMENT BILL

Hon. P. D. BEATTIE (Brisbane Central— ALP) (Premier) (11.32 a.m.): I move—

"That the Bill be now read a second time."

My Government is determined to boost Brisbane's reputation as the most livable capital city in Australia. A crucial focus of this vision is the redevelopment and enhancement of South Bank as one of the great city parklands and open spaces in the world. The purpose of the Bill is twofold—

It will amend the boundaries of land over which the South Bank Corporation may, with my approval, grant a perpetual lease for 999 years;

and it will amend the development plan in order to allow the construction and continued use of land for the South Bank pedestrian and cycle bridge which, as you are aware, will run from near the Maritime Museum at South Bank to the city Botanic Gardens.

The corporation already has the power to grant a perpetual lease over certain land at South Bank. This amendment will enable the corporation to grant a perpetual lease to the Mirvac Group, which recently won the tender to develop two sites of mixed use retail, commercial and residential complexes fronting the realigned Grey and Little Stanley Streets. This is a \$100m residential, retail and commercial development to make South Bank one of the most desirable inner-city addresses in the world. These are the last prime development sites in this area and will result in a dynamic mix of shops, offices and homes in the midst of a world-class leisure and cultural precinct. There will be more than 180 apartments, 4,000 square metres of shops and 3,000 square metres of offices, with a maximum height of five storeys.

The second part of the Bill relates to the pedestrian and cycle bridge. Reducing traffic congestion and encouraging people to cycle and walk has got to be a feature of any long-term planning for the future of Brisbane and the electorate of Brisbane Central, which I represent. At the moment the Brisbane River presents pedestrians and cyclists with a three kilometre long barrier between the Story and Victoria Bridges. So a special bridge for them is a crucial link.

The plan for a bridge was backed by all major business, community, tourism and professional groups with particularly strong support from Queensland University of Technology students as well as the QUT itself. People attending the university campus were particularly enthusiastic because they will gain better access from eastern and southern suburbs to the city campus. About 55,000 students a day will need to get to and from QUT, Southbank Institute of TAFE, the Conservatorium of Music and the College of Art which will be built near the Maritime Museum.

When we consulted with the community on the plans for the bridge, we received 3,370 responses, with an overwhelming three out of every four people supporting the bridge. It will cross the Brisbane River from the southern end of Queensland University of Technology to the Maritime Museum. It will provide a crucial link in the inner-city transport network by joining the cycleway on the city side of the river to the Stanley Street cycleway.

The bridge will also connect with the new 400-seat Gardens Point Theatre which encourages community participation and, as such, is an open door for the performing arts in a wonderful setting in a central location. The Government contributed \$1.5m to the theatre project because its inclusion with the art museum in a cultural precinct linked to the South Bank is a winner. It will provide plenty of scope for

the drama, music and dance students from QUT who use this theatre, as well as the 80 or so community groups which it will house. In its concept plan, the QUT pointed out how well the theatre fitted in to the Government's vision for the arts.

The bridge is part of a partnership between the State Government and the city council to reduce exhaust emissions by building busways, a light rail system and encouraging people to use bikeways and footpaths. It will help make Brisbane the most pedestrian friendly capital city in Australia and will also give the river a truly elegant and identifiable symbol to complement the city's other bridges. It will also be family friendly.

The initial design has been streamlined as a result of public consultation. Ramps on either side will link to an arched section spanning the deep water channel and a simplified pavilion. Additional shading has been added to protect walkers and cyclists using the bridge, which will be 6.5 metres wide. Once the need for a bridge had been confirmed by consultation, the public was given the opportunity to comment on seven options for its location. These ranged from an addition to the Captain Cook Bridge to a bridge from Alice Street to the South Bank beach. As a result of that extensive consultation, it was decided to build the bridge from a point between QUT and the river stage on the city side to the Maritime Museum, north of the dry dock. This means that close to the city bank it will cross under the Captain Cook Bridge.

Use of land within the South Bank area is controlled by an approved development plan which sets out the acceptable use for different parcels of land. The approved development plan does not currently allow for the land within the maritime precinct to be used for a bridge and it is therefore necessary to amend the plan in order to allow the construction and the continued use of the land for the bridge.

A change is also to be made to the parkland precinct to allow part of that land to be used for such things as site offices, first aid facilities, as well as storage and handling of materials and equipment during the construction of the bridge. Amendments to the approved development plan are normally done through a process of seeking ministerial approval and undertaking public consultation and consultation with the Brisbane City Council prior to seeking the approval of the Governor in Council for the amendment. As the consultation process already undertaken for the bridge far exceeds that which would be required by this process, these changes are to be made through amendments to the Act.

I commend the Bill to the House.
