



Speech by

Mr D. BRISKEY

MEMBER FOR CLEVELAND

Hansard 13 May 2003

SOUTH BANK CORPORATION AND OTHER ACTS AMENDMENT BILL

Mr BRISKEY (Cleveland—ALP) (3.53 p.m.): I rise to speak in support of the South Bank Corporation and Other Acts Amendment Bill 2003. This bill provides for the continued effective development and management of the South Bank Corporation and this excellent city landmark, which has become popular not only with the people of Brisbane but also with visitors from around the world. I take this opportunity to commend the work of the architects who designed South Bank, in particular an architect by the name of Evan Winkle, who had a lot to do with the gardens that we all enjoy. I thank Evan Winkle for his vision and artistic flair. He can be justifiably proud of South Bank. As honourable members have already said, we all enjoy the South Bank precinct.

When looking at the South Bank web site recently I was pleasantly surprised to learn about myriad exciting activities hosted every month at this tremendous facility for our city—activities such as exhibitions, cultural displays, live performances and, of course, the famous markets, not to mention attractions including shops and restaurants, health and leisure pursuits, art and cultural exhibitions, which are all contained within the South Bank precinct.

It is appropriate for the legislation to be amended, because the work of the South Bank Corporation has evolved over the past 14 years since it was opened as a public facility. The act which set up the corporation after the highly successful World Expo '88 was established to essentially promote and manage the site. These days the corporation has a greatly expanded role, which this bill takes into account. The South Bank Corporation and Other Acts Amendment Bill 2003 amends the objectives and functions of the corporation. It recognises that both the developmental and managerial roles of the corporation have evolved. This will ensure that activities within the South Bank precinct complement the activities of public facilities at other major sites in and around the CBD, including the Performing Arts Complex and the Queensland Museum.

The corporation's responsibilities have now taken on those of a body which controls and influences a major centre of community activity and celebration, hosting many colourful and well-attended events every year—events that I am sure many honourable members have attended. As a focal point of the city, South Bank is the centre of Brisbane's Australia Day celebrations as well as significant fireworks displays on the river throughout the year. South Bank is a Brisbane landmark where many residents enjoy activities, including dining out, swimming and celebrating local events—all of which my family and I have enjoyed over the years.

South Bank's tag line of 'always creating' is befitting and acknowledges its changing face and the evolution of its place in Brisbane's social and leisure landscape. Brisbane residents have taken South Bank to their hearts as a popular destination for leisure activities, and the amendments in this bill encompass the extended activities of the corporation. I commend the bill to the House.