



Speech by  
**Grace Grace**

**MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL**

Hansard Wednesday, 7 October 2009

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## **KURILPA BRIDGE**

**Ms GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (11.59 am): I must admit that until last Sunday morning I had no idea what 'tensegrity' meant. When the Kurilpa Bridge was opened to the public on a glorious Brisbane Sunday morning I soon learnt from the Premier and Minister Swatten that it was the means by which the bridge was built. By 'tensegrity' I mean that the bridge balances tension and compression components to produce a light but incredibly strong structure.

It was a great day. We were joined by over 20,000 people to officially open the bridge and be amongst the first to walk across it from South Brisbane to Tank Street in the CBD. The new cycle and pedestrian bridge spans from Kurilpa Park to Tank Street and it gives easy access to the central business district. It has many viewing platforms where the William Jolly Bridge Q150 lighting display can be viewed without interruption.

Currently the Goodwill Bridge, which was built amidst some criticism whilst I was on the South Bank board, boasts around 53,000 people per week crossing the structure. It is expected that similar numbers will cross the Kurilpa Bridge per week.

I think the bridge looks fantastic. It is a fine piece of architecture. I congratulate all involved—designers, builders and workers—on a job well done in providing an environmentally friendly bridge which, whether one likes it or not, I am sure will be admired as a great piece of infrastructure.

Already the bridge has been painted by local New Farm artist Philippa Webb, who has done an excellent job in portraying the bridge in its full glory. When people ask, 'What will I do whilst I am in Brisbane?', take my heed: what could be better than to suggest to visitors and residents alike to take a walk across the Kurilpa Bridge, venture into the GoMA and art gallery district, pass the beautiful South Bank Parklands, cross the Goodwill Bridge and shop in our wonderful CBD.

For those in the House and all Queenslanders who have not taken the opportunity to experience a walk on the new bridge, I urge you to do so as soon as possible. It is a great experience.