



Speech by  
**Grace Grace**

**MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL**

Hansard Wednesday, 28 October 2009

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## **OLD WINDMILL RESTORATION**

**Ms GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (12.03 pm): The Old Windmill on Wickham Terrace is one of Queensland's oldest remaining convict buildings and is the oldest windmill tower in Australia. It is therefore a building of national significance as well as an important tourist attraction on Brisbane's heritage trail.

The state government was pleased to partner with the Brisbane City Council on restoration works as part of a larger \$2 million joint project, Connecting Brisbane, celebrating Brisbane and Queensland's 150th birthday. The state government funding was provided through the Q150 Legacy Infrastructure Program, a \$100 million capital works program to create legacies for Queensland's 150th birthday. Thanks to this program and to the wonderful restoration work which has been carried out, the Old Windmill will continue to be a well-loved heritage site for the City of Brisbane for many more generations to come.

The opening on Tuesday of last week saw this beautiful old building now restored to its former glory and standing as a beacon connecting us to our convict past. It is one of the great legacies of Queensland's 150th birthday, and I believe it will make a fantastic addition to the tourist trail in Brisbane. This well-known city landmark played many roles in its history—from the late 1820s when grains were ground to feed the people of Brisbane to the 1860s when it became an important signal station and a means of communication.

It was fantastic to finally be able to enter the building, climb to the top and take in the magnificent views of Brisbane from the platform. I am looking forward to working with the Brisbane City Council to work out some system where tourists who visit this historic site may be able to enter the building and climb the stairs. The difficulty is that the platform was obviously not made for a large number of tourists. We have to find a way for this to be done. I pay particular homage to all those who worked on this great building. It is a fantastic site. I urge everyone to visit.