



Speech by  
**Grace Grace**

**MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL**

Hansard Wednesday, 14 April 2010

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## **FORTITUDE VALLEY POLICE STATION**

**Ms GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (11.45 am): I am very pleased to inform the House that the completed redeveloped Fortitude Valley Police Station was officially opened last week by Minister Roberts on Wednesday, 7 April. The new \$16 million facility was delivered on time and within budget and the two-stage station is an excellent example of the old blending wonderfully with the new.

The first stage of the project comprised the construction of a \$13 million adjacent station which reached practical completion in May 2009. This ensured minimal disruption to all staff and officers, who continued to work from the station serving the busy Brisbane central district throughout the construction period. Stage 2 reached practical completion in January this year and comprised the refurbishment of the heritage listed original police station at a cost of nearly \$3 million. Claims that the Fortitude Valley project was over budget are erroneous and wrong. Therefore, claims the overspend could have been redirected into front-line officers are redundant.

It was great to be part of assisting the official opening, together with the minister and Acting Deputy Commissioner Col McCallum, because it signalled a new era in policing in my busy electorate. This modern redevelopment and extension to the existing refurbished original building will greatly enhance efficiency and allow local police and staff to better meet growing demand in the central Brisbane area. The new extended station will house 105 general duties officers as well as many other special units.

Close to 120 jobs were sustained on this project throughout the construction. I must admit that they did an excellent job, particularly in the heritage listed building, which has turned out to be beautifully refurbished, linking seamlessly into the new building. There is no denying that local police do an outstanding job maintaining public safety in one of the busiest police districts in Queensland, and many community members in attendance were on hand to show their appreciation for their great work and assistance. I thank all involved in this project, especially Senior Sergeant Tony McDonald, officer in charge, the Police Union's Ian Leavers, who was also in attendance, and all of the dedicated and hardworking police officers and staff at the Fortitude Valley Police Station. Keep up the great work!