




Speech by  
**Grace Grace**

**MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL**

Hansard Thursday, 1 December 2011

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### **RIVERWALK; WORLD AIDS DAY**

 **Ms GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (3.20 pm): The events of last summer were certainly exceptional, causing more than \$2.7 billion worth of damage to local government infrastructure alone. That is why in February this year the Treasurer joined with the Deputy Prime Minister in announcing a package of exceptional circumstance payments to help local governments like the Brisbane City Council meet those costs over and above what is usually eligible under longstanding NDRRA arrangements. This package included a \$145 million allocation from state and federal governments for the fast-tracked reconstruction of Brisbane's CityCat terminals and the Brisbane Riverwalk.

As the member for Brisbane Central, I am concerned to learn from the Brisbane City Council Riverwalk website that it will take all of 2012 for preliminary and detailed design work on the preferred design concept B. Equally, I am concerned that it will take until mid to late 2014 for the council to complete the Riverwalk development. The Reconstruction Authority has nonetheless provided council with an advance payment for Riverwalk, as it has done for the rest of council's NDRRA projects, in order to meet any costs incurred by the BCC to date as well as fund design and early construction costs for Riverwalk. Given that the state and federal governments have allocated all of the necessary funding for the Riverwalk project, it is now incumbent upon the council to advise their ratepayers why it will take up to three years—until the 2013-14 financial year—to complete such a significant project for Brisbane.

The Riverwalk was used by over 3,000 commuters, cyclists and pedestrians daily. My constituents are keen to have this infrastructure replaced as soon as possible. They are keen to know what insurance the council had on Riverwalk and whether it received any payment so that the funding can be reduced and allocated to other priority projects. This morning we heard from the Premier of excellent reconstruction work happening throughout the state, and I call on the Brisbane City Council to make the Riverwalk project a priority and get it done as soon as possible. I also acknowledge today World AIDS Day.