




Speech By
Robert Cavallucci

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Record of Proceedings, 27 November 2014

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Brisbane Central Electorate, Representation

 **Mr CAVALLUCCI** (Brisbane Central—LNP) (3.29 pm): One of the reasons I ran to represent the people of Brisbane Central was that of my complete dismay, dissatisfaction and concern over the competency of the representation it had been receiving. Places like Fortitude Valley were allowed to degrade and decay and businesses were neglected and compelled to close. There was no plan to grow the local economy, no comprehensive plan to deal with alcohol related violence impacting on our young people and the businesses in the creative district, and there was no local plan to improve health and patient outcomes at Queensland's biggest hospital, the RBWH. Importantly, there was no local plan to fix the degraded facilities in our schools or even a plan that detailed the future infrastructure those schools were going to need to ensure the best educational outcomes for our kids in the future.

In the last three years what should be basic fundamentals required of leadership and proper representation have been addressed. The Valley, only two short years ago, was a place where investment was virtually zero. The surrounding area now boasts 26 cranes and more than \$2 billion in investment. In two years alone it has gone from the worst place in Australia to the place in Australia to invest.

The Valley Chamber of Commerce only two years ago was languishing with a static 120 members. Working daily with the president, Robin Maini, and activating local businesses, the chamber has now grown to 450 members and one of the most active in Queensland, with its monthly functions of 200 people selling out in less than 30 minutes. It is fantastic news because small businesses are the engine room of our economy.

Sitting on the Valley Economic Development Board and working hard with the Lord Mayor to rebrand and reposition the Valley as the creative district has also delivered a \$4.5 million investment in completing a new Brunswick Street Mall. I thank the Lord Mayor and the Brisbane City Council for that. Finally, we have delivered the Safe Night Out Strategy—Australia's best practice and most comprehensive plan to deal with alcohol related violence in our community and ensure the safety of the 35,000 young people who visit the precinct on weekends.

To deliver on my 2012 election commitment and my plans and to truly change the face of the Valley, a real plan had to be developed and one has been comprehensively delivered. After fixing the maintenance backlogs in our schools, I want to finish with my local plan for education and also an electorate first. Consulting with principals, teachers, P&Cs and a team of professionals, I am in the process of delivering a master planning vision for education in the inner city for the next 20 years for each of my state schools simultaneously, with consultation running through until early next year. This demonstrates how important education is to not only me but that it takes real planning to deliver it effectively into an ever-changing and growing inner-city environment.

For the community it is something that has been lacking from its local representatives for too long. I am privileged and proud to represent the people of Brisbane Central and I am also proud of what I have been able to deliver for them since 2012.