




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Queen's Wharf Development

 **Ms GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (12.00 pm): The Star, Brisbane is born and due to shine in 2022. The final deal on the \$3 billion Queen's Wharf Brisbane development, which happens to be in my electorate of Brisbane Central, has been sealed and promises to deliver more than 2,000 construction jobs and 8,000 operational jobs. In fact, the Queensland Investment Corporation estimates that with flow-on effects the final net increase in Queensland jobs will be more like 11,500. Just over two weeks ago the Palaszczuk government signed off with Destination Brisbane Consortium, DBC, led by the Star Entertainment Group, formerly Echo Entertainment Group, on the development. It will deliver: 12 football fields of enhanced public open space; a new pedestrian bridge from the CBD to South Bank; a \$3 billion world-class integrated resort development; more than \$1 billion to the state coffers; thousands of jobs and opportunities for Queensland businesses and workers; and a Queensland hotel and hospitality school partnership with TAFE Queensland. These are marvellous deliveries. This redevelopment is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for all of us. This is a key and exciting milestone because the DBC partners—now the official contractor—and the Palaszczuk government can get this project moving, which means that the benefits will start to flow soon with the first instalment of \$272 million delivered to the government a couple of weeks ago. Another guaranteed \$880 million will follow from casino taxes over the next 10 years of DBC's operations from 2022.

Together with government, the DBC partners now have the official green light to move on with development approvals, legislative changes, vacant possession of precinct buildings and the associated casino licence changes. Queen's Wharf Brisbane is all about jobs and opportunities for Queenslanders and Queensland businesses. As previously mentioned, the project will create thousands of jobs, but on top of that the flow-on economic benefits are estimated to be in the billions. The Department of State Development, on behalf of the state, will be responsible for managing and overseeing the DBC's detailed design and stakeholder and important community engagement activities throughout construction from 2017 to 2022.

We know that already 300 businesses on the Sunshine Coast want to get on board with this incredible project in my electorate, and the Palaszczuk government will be working with businesses around the state to maximise the opportunities for them to supply goods and services. The extra big picture gains include a \$1.69 billion annual increase in tourism spend and around 1.39 million additional tourists per annum. This project will also deliver: an iconic signature Arc building, including a feature sky deck with restaurants and bars; five new hotels ranging from four to six star; Brisbane's first six-star hotel; three residential towers; around 50 food and beverage outlets; a riverfront moonlight cinema; improved access to heritage buildings; waterfront spaces; plazas for the public; and improved walking connectivity around the inner city from the mall and surrounding places. The head office of DBC partners—

Mr Walker interjected.

Ms GRACE: Just wait, member for Mansfield—Star Entertainment Group, is relocating more than 300 staff from Sydney to Queensland. The Palaszczuk government is also commissioning a \$1.3 million business case for a 1,500-seat theatre to report back in 12 months. This government is committed to delivering a second theatre, but we first need to do a thorough study into the best location, size and management model—unlike those opposite. We also need to factor in this year's heritage listing of the Cultural Precinct, and this 12-month business case will give us the information we need to determine the best option.

I am also pleased that under this government the Queen's Wharf project has been secured with minimal public concern and that Brisbane will remain a one-casino city. I acknowledge that casinos are not everyone's cup of tea; however, the Star casino group has a strong record of supporting available services for problem gamblers and I note that gambling should always be viewed primarily as entertainment. This is an exciting project that will deliver thousands of jobs and billions of dollars in economic benefit. When the project is completed in 2022, I look forward to having a drink on the sky deck while enjoying the beautiful view of Brisbane.