




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 3 December 2015

QUEEN'S WHARF BRISBANE BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (3.56 pm): I present a bill for an act to provide for the ratification of the agreement for the Queen's Wharf Brisbane casino and provide for other matters relating to the development of Queen's Wharf Brisbane, and to amend this act, the Brisbane Casino Agreement Act 1992, the Casino Control Act 1982, the Economic Development Act 2012, the Liquor Act 1992, the South Bank Corporation Act 1989 and the South-East Queensland Water (Distribution and Retail Restructuring) Act 2009 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Queens Wharf Brisbane Bill 2015 [[1838](#)].

Tabled paper: Queens Wharf Brisbane Bill 2015, explanatory notes [[1839](#)].

I am pleased to introduce the Queen's Wharf Brisbane Bill 2015 into the parliament today. On 20 July 2015 the Destination Brisbane Consortium was announced as the government's preferred proponent to revitalise an underutilised area of state owned land in the heart of the Brisbane CBD known as Queen's Wharf Brisbane and stimulate the tourism and construction sectors of Queensland's economy. The redevelopment is proposed to commence in 2017, with completion expected by 2022.

The redevelopment of Queen's Wharf will deliver, among other things, five new premium hotels including Brisbane's first six-star hotel; three residential towers; 50 new bars, restaurants and retail outlets; a riverfront moonlight cinema; a new pedestrian bridge to South Bank; revitalised heritage buildings and spaces; and 12 football fields of public space. It will create 2,000 construction jobs and 8,000 operational jobs, a \$272 million-plus payment to the state and a guarantee of \$880 million in casino taxes for the first 10 years of operation.

In recognition of the significant financial commitment by the Destination Brisbane Consortium—in excess of \$3 billion—to deliver a world-class tourism, leisure and entertainment precinct, a casino licence was also offered. As such, one of the main purposes of the Queen's Wharf Brisbane Bill is to ratify the Queen's Wharf Brisbane Casino Agreement, which is a prerequisite to the grant of a casino licence. The casino agreement outlines the terms on which the casino licence will be issued and imposes a number of reporting obligations on parties to the agreement and other relevant entities. This agreement must also be ratified by the parliament for it to have the force of law.

The bill also contains provisions to maintain the integrity of casino operations and those involved or associated with ownership, management or operations of the Queen's Wharf casino or complex. For example, the bill provides for the ways in which an entity may become a party or cease to be a party to the agreement and requirements in relation to the levels of voting power that persons may have in the licensee or entities related to the licensee. These requirements are intended to ensure that persons associated with such entities are suitable to be associated or connected with the ownership,

management or operations of the casino or complex. The bill also contains provisions which amend the Liquor Act 1992 and the Casino Control Act 1982 to provide for a number of regulatory matters relating to the proposed casino.

To facilitate the redevelopment process, the bill amends the Economic Development Act 2012, the South-East Queensland Water (Distribution and Retail Restructuring) Act 2009 and the South Bank Corporation Act 1989 to enable the minister for Economic Development Queensland to act as development assessment manager for the Queen's Wharf Brisbane priority development area and the development of a pedestrian bridge to South Bank.

The bill also exempts certain provisions of the Property Law Act 1974, Land Act 1994, Land Title Act 1994 and Transport Infrastructure Act 1994 to facilitate the redevelopment of the Queen's Wharf precinct by excluding the application of certain property and planning legislative provisions. Planning and heritage approvals for the existing Treasury hotel-casino site remain captured under the Brisbane Casino Agreement Act 1992. However, I intend to bring a further bill to parliament early next year to amend the Brisbane Casino Agreement Act 1992 to provide for the redevelopment of the current hotel-casino site to also be approved under the same development approval scheme by the minister for Economic Development Queensland.

The bill also amends the Retail Shop Leases Act 1994 and the Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Act 2008 to achieve the commercial outcomes negotiated by the state. The Queens Wharf Brisbane redevelopment is one of the most significant and exciting infrastructure projects to be undertaken in this state and I am very pleased to be introducing this bill for parliament's consideration today. The project will provide a well needed economic and tourism stimulus in our capital city and in the process rejuvenate the Brisbane CBD and provide an attractive world-class integrated resort facility that will put Queensland on the world map. The introduction of the Queen's Wharf Brisbane Bill is one of the first steps in getting this process moving and underway. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (4.02 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

Question put—That the bill be now read a first time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee

Mr SPEAKER: In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee.

Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date

Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (4.02 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That under the provisions of standing order 136 the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee report to the House on the Queen's Wharf Brisbane Bill by 4 April 2016.