




Speech By
Dale Last

MEMBER FOR BURDEKIN

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QUEENS'S WHARF BRISBANE BILL; BRISBANE CASINO AGREEMENT AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (8.52 pm): I rise to support the Queen's Wharf Brisbane Bill 2015 and the Brisbane Casino Agreement Amendment Bill 2016. This is a good example of the difference between the former LNP government and the current government, a difference that revolves around vision. If we are to take our capital city forward, we need visionary projects like this that will make Queensland a destination of choice. There is no question that we need development in this state. We need projects that are going to create jobs and we need them now. This is a once-in-a-lifetime project that will redefine Brisbane, a project which has been several years in the making and will ultimately cross all political divides.

The redevelopment of the Queen's Wharf Brisbane precinct by excluding the application of certain property and planning legislative provisions which are not intended to apply to large-scale developments will provide a process for the ratification of a proposed Queen's Wharf Brisbane Casino Agreement, maintain the integrity of casino operations and those involved or associated with the conduct of casino operations, and give effect to a range of casino regulatory matters. This is a signature project not only for Brisbane but also for Queensland. We cannot afford to have this project bogged down in bureaucratic red tape or held up any longer than is absolutely necessary. The importance of ensuring this project is approved and delivered on time cannot be underestimated.

The Brisbane Casino Agreement Amendment Bill, if passed, will replace the existing Brisbane Casino Agreement with a new agreement. This new agreement will introduce a new planning and development arrangement for the existing Brisbane casino-hotel complex and reflect the intention of the parties to require any future development or repurposing applications for the casino-hotel complex and the site to be assessed and approved by the minister for economic development.

The process for the redevelopment of Queen's Wharf as part of the integrated resort development process was announced by the former LNP government, by the then deputy premier in December 2013. I want to pay tribute to the members for Callide and Clayfield for their foresight and vision for this great city. I note the redevelopment is proposed to commence in 2017, which cannot come soon enough for Queenslanders. Of course, this project was part of the greater plan by the previous LNP government to create jobs in Queensland, a project that will provide 3,000 construction jobs and 8,000 ongoing jobs in this state. It is also worth noting that this development is contingent on the 1 William Street development and the relocation of the government precinct. This is an area in need of a makeover, an area that is tired and reflects poorly on our city. If we are to see this great city continue to grow and be held up as an example of innovation and progressiveness, it is vitally important that we continue to offer entertainment venues and lifestyle options that meet the needs of not only our residents but also overseas visitors.

One of the main purposes of the bill is to ratify the Queen's Wharf Brisbane Casino Agreement, which is required by the Casino Control Act 1982 before a casino licence is granted. The proposed agreement deals with a broad range of matters including inter alia the area within the Queen's Wharf Brisbane development within which the casino will be located, the granting of a casino licence and the conditions and terms of the grant. It provides for exclusivity for the Queen's Wharf casino by providing that the state will not authorise or grant a new casino licence or otherwise permit gambling within 60 kilometres of the GPO for a specified time with some exceptions. The proposed agreement also deals with other matters that include casino tax and GST, inspection, facilities for gaming regulators and police, a range of reporting and other obligations, termination of the agreement, finance, confidentiality and probity arrangements including preventing certain people from involvement in the consortium. This is a project that has the potential to set a new benchmark in terms of casino development. Given the size of the investment, it is imperative that we get this right.

These bills will ensure a streamlined planning approval process which preserves the heritage of the Treasury Building. The potential financial windfall to Queensland is significant at a time when our reliance on the mineral resource sector is under extreme pressure. We need to look outside the square, and this project ticks all the boxes at a time when Queenslanders need an injection of confidence. I commend the bills to the House.