




Speech By  
**Hon. Grace Grace**

**MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL**

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Record of Proceedings, 19 April 2016

**QUEEN'S WHARF BRISBANE BILL; BRISBANE CASINO AGREEMENT  
AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Hon. G GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (9.42 pm): I rise to support the Queen's Wharf Brisbane Bill 2015. As the member for Brisbane Central where Queen's Wharf is located, my wonderful electorate—it is not quite so dusty and old I might add—I have always been a very strong advocate for a world-class development on this site. I believe and agree with many of the sentiments expressed this evening that Queen's Wharf will put Brisbane on the international map in the biggest way since Expo 88. It will be a transformative project that will change the face of Brisbane forever.

I acknowledge that both sides of the House have worked to deliver this project, but what I do reject is the hubris and self-indulgence when it comes to patting oneself on the back in relation to exactly who was responsible or not responsible for delivering this project. The real issue is that this project is going ahead. We are dealing with a great project, as many people have said, that will improve tourism for the area of Brisbane. At the end of the day Brisbane and Queensland will be the winner. I agree with the member for Gregory that there will be people who will come to Brisbane to see this wonderful world-class city who will also venture out into the regions and that can only be a benefit for tourism and Queenslanders as a whole.

Queen's Wharf will see the creation of a spectacular—there is no other word to use—entertainment and leisure destination. I am particularly happy that the winner of the bidding process, the consortium that is going ahead with this project, still ensures one casino licence in Brisbane. I believe that that is sustainable. I did not necessarily support the fact that we could possibly have had two casino licences. I am pleased with the one casino licence for the city of Brisbane. I believe this project will have something for everyone. We will see some spectacular designs, six-star hotels and a number of other wonderful things that will be added to the site.

I found the contribution by the member for Indooroopilly to be somewhat bizarre. He was talking about a train station that was part of a BaT tunnel but not part of a BaT tunnel that was going to be somewhere but now moved somewhere else. Those opposite turned their back on the Cross River Rail. It would have been built by now had they taken the money from the federal government and we would have known exactly where the rail station was, but instead we are talking about something that had not yet been solidified by a minister who turned his back on the project and the finances that were to be given for it. Let us hope Brisbane does not have to put up with that kind of procrastinating and that we get on with the job of attracting thousands of international and interstate visitors each year delivering a \$3 billion boost to the Queensland economy.

As the member for the area I am very conscious of the residents who live in the inner city. I have already had an information session for those residents. This will be fairly disruptive for a lot of residents who live in the Brisbane city and we cannot forget them. I commit that I will keep them briefed on the project to keep them up to date on the building. I hope that the construction work, that will go for many,

many years, will be minimally disruptive to those residents. I know that they are a patient lot. They love living in the inner city of Brisbane and they understand that in order to create 8,000 operational jobs and close to 3,000 jobs during construction there will be some disruption. I will ensure that they will be kept up to date and informed about how the project is progressing.

As employment minister I love the job numbers. The young unemployed in particular in this state will benefit greatly from this project. There will be 8,000 operational jobs in areas such as hospitality. Apprentices, trainees and university graduates are among the many Queenslanders who will benefit from the jobs created by this development for years to come. Both sides of the House can pat themselves on the back for the jobs that will come to fruition.

The bill will bring the development one step closer by ratifying the Brisbane Casino Agreement. I know how important probity and integrity is. Furthermore, the bill provides that under the agreement we can be assured that Brisbane's beautiful iconic landmark buildings will remain protected and enhanced and also be part of this wonderful development. I think members will find that those iconic buildings will actually be the anchor for the Queen's Wharf development. We will have spectacular new buildings but the beautiful historic heritage will be the anchor of a wonderful site that will enhance Brisbane. We are talking about culturally and heritage appropriate development. Queen's Wharf will be the game-changer that Brisbane needs. It is all systems go thanks to a bidding process that has now been finalised and a balanced approach to development ensuring that we get value for the dollar. Not only does Brisbane win but also the whole of Queensland wins with this project. I am pleased to commend this bill to the House.