



Speech By  
**Hon. Grace Grace**


**MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL**

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Record of Proceedings, 2 November 2016

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**

### **Theme Parks, Safety Audit**

 **Hon. G GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (2.18 pm): I join Minister Byrne in expressing, like all Queenslanders, my shock at week's tragic events that claimed the lives of four tourists at Dreamworld. My heart goes out to the family and friends of those affected. I also want to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the first response workers in very challenging circumstances.

These tragic events are being thoroughly investigated by the Coroner, the Queensland Police Service, and Workplace Health and Safety Queensland. The investigation will seek to establish what went wrong and what can be done to prevent a repeat of this tragedy. It will also ensure that any person or organisation found to be responsible for the deaths is held to account.

In addition to this ongoing investigation, workplace inspectors are conducting a month-long safety audit of Queensland theme parks. The safety audit got underway on Saturday at Dreamworld and will cover Movie World, Wet'n'Wild, Sea World, Aussie World and Australia Zoo throughout the course of November. As part of the audits, specialist inspectors and engineers will focus on records inspection, maintenance and repair and manufacturer documentation, along with ride operator training. This is about assuring theme park visitors and also ensuring public confidence in Queensland's prime tourism attractions ahead of the busy Christmas holiday season. Make no mistake: Queensland theme parks are world class. However, given the magnitude of this tragedy, we need to act decisively in the interests of both public safety and confidence in our lucrative tourism industry.

Tuesday's tragic events reverberated around Australia and the world, and no-one knows that better than our theme park operators. I have held discussions with Dreamworld and Village Roadshow representatives who have expressed their full support and full cooperation for the safety audits. I, along with the Minister for Tourism, will continue to meet with representatives from Queensland's theme park industry to discuss the safety audits and other relevant workplace safety matters.

The government will also conduct a wideranging best practice audit of Queensland's workplace health and safety systems and processes. This audit will consider whether existing penalties under the workplace health and safety regulations are sufficient to act as deterrents as well as ensuring that we have best practice international standards. I want to reiterate that we will leave no stone unturned in getting to the bottom of what went wrong at Dreamworld, as expressed often by the Premier. The families of the deceased and the general public deserve answers and they will get answers when the investigation is complete. We will do everything in our power to ensure there is no repeat of these tragic events.