




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Record of Proceedings, 9 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) (2.22 pm): All members of this House are deeply saddened by the terrible tragedy at Dreamworld. That incident is deeply shocking and again I offer my sincere condolences to the families and friends of those who lost their lives. My department has offered counselling and support to those affected, including workers and the general public who witnessed the terrible event. The department will continue to liaise with family members in these difficult times. The matter is being thoroughly investigated by Queensland police and Workplace Health and Safety Queensland. We will leave no stone unturned so that the causes are identified and action is taken to ensure this never happens again. I believe that the decommissioning of the ride by Dreamworld is a sensible approach.

In addition to the ongoing investigation into this tragedy, last week Workplace Health and Safety inspectors and electrical safety inspectors and engineers commenced a month-long campaign of amusement ride audits at the big six amusement parks: Dreamworld, Wet'n'Wild, Sea World, Aussie World, WhiteWater World and Movie World. Over 90 audits will be conducted in total using the national audit tool for amusement devices, which will provide a comprehensive audit of individual amusement rides. The audits focus on examining inspection and maintenance records and Workplace Health and Safety Queensland is working collaboratively with amusement park operators during this safety blitz. I understand that at each of the parks relevant persons have been contacted in relation to the anticipated dates of audits and that amusement park operators have been provided with a request for documents to enable the audit to be completed promptly. I have been advised that park operators are actively assisting the inspectors to ensure that the audits can be completed in a timely manner.

Since the safety blitz started last week, the audits of amusement rides at Movie World are well advanced. I am advised by Workplace Health and Safety Queensland that only one minor non-consumer safety matter has been identified to date, which was immediately rectified. Movie World has cooperated fully in the audit process, providing all required documentation on request. We expect that the audit will be wrapped up by Friday and that there will be a positive outcome. Yesterday, the Minister for Tourism and Major Events and I met with Movie World staff. I take this opportunity to thank Movie World for being so proactive in responding to the audit process. It is anticipated that all amusement park audits will be completed before the end of the month.

Visiting a theme park in Queensland is one of Australia's truly great tourism experiences. I have visited Dreamworld and other theme parks and I look forward to doing so again. I will continue to update the House on our efforts to ensure public confidence and to keep the visitors coming to the great Gold Coast.