



Speech By
Joan Pease

MEMBER FOR LYTTON

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

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (8.47 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Brisbane Casino Agreement Amendment Bill and the Queen's Wharf Brisbane Bill 2015. These two bills form part of an important revitalisation of a currently under-utilised area of state owned land in the heart of the Brisbane CBD. I would like to take the opportunity to thank my fellow committee members, the chair, Mr Jim Pearce, and the secretariat for their hard work and consideration of these important bills.

I have lived in Brisbane for most of my life and have been fortunate to travel through Queensland, Australia and the world. However, I am proud to call Brisbane home because I think that it is the best place on earth to live. My electorate of Lytton is in the Brisbane City Council and I am excited to see this redevelopment in the city. Most importantly, I am excited that this project will create jobs—jobs during the construction phase and long-term operational jobs once Queen's Wharf Brisbane is built. There will be 2,000 jobs during construction and in excess of 8,000 jobs in ongoing operations and flow-on employment. This is great news for Queenslanders and in particular for members of my electorate, with the opportunity for employment in construction, tourism, hospitality and retail. It is certainly an exciting time for all of Queensland, which the members for Stafford and Gregory have outlined very well. I appreciate their passion.

There will be a \$272 million-plus payment to the state and a guarantee of \$880 million in casino taxes for the first 10 years. The development will include five new premium hotels, including Brisbane's first six-star hotel; three residential towers; 50 new bars, restaurants and retail outlets; a riverfront moonlit cinema; a new pedestrian bridge to South Bank; revitalised heritage buildings and spaces; and 12 football fields of public space.

Like many locals and visitors to Brisbane, I love to walk through the city and admire some of the lovely old buildings that make up this wonderful city of ours. I know that there are a number of significant heritage listed buildings and local heritage places in the precinct and sections of Albert, George and William streets, North Quay and Queen's Wharf are all recognised as an archaeological place under the Queensland Heritage Act 1992. I am happy today to table a document from the Department of Justice and Attorney-General's Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation which provides an overview of the current heritage protections and how these protections will be preserved and extended under the Queen's Wharf Brisbane development.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 24 March 2016, from the Deputy Director-General, Department of Justice and Attorney-General, Mr David Ford, to the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee regarding the Brisbane Casino Agreement Amendment Bill 2016 [\[530\]](#).

Sadly, I remember a time in Queensland when heritage or culturally significant buildings were not considered important, particularly when they stood in the way of development. There would be a few in the House who are familiar with the Bellevue Hotel, a painting of which hangs in this precinct. I

recall the demolition in the dead of night of this lovely old landmark. Likewise, I still miss the pop and rock concerts and dances that were held at Cloudland, another casualty of progress. Cloudland was immortalised by Midnight Oil, who were regular performers at Cloudland, in their song *Dreamworld*—

Cloudland into dreamland turns

The sun comes up and we all learn

Those wheels must turn

Thankfully, we now have a sensible government and protections in place which acknowledge these heritage and culturally significant places.

The conservation and heritage management is one of the fundamental elements of the development scheme which includes conservation and reuse of all heritage buildings. This means that all heritage buildings must remain. However, they can be adapted for new purposes and any development, major or minor, that includes a heritage place is an assessable development and requires a development application to the minister for economic development.

These bills will facilitate the delivery of the Queen's Wharf Brisbane, which is a priority development area. The Brisbane Casino Agreement Amendment Bill 2016 will replace the existing Brisbane Casino Agreement, which is a schedule to the Brisbane Casino Agreement Act 1992, with a new agreement that no longer exempts the Brisbane casino-hotel complex and site from development or heritage development or heritage legislation. The Queen's Wharf Brisbane Bill 2015 will ratify the QWB Casino Agreement and will make amendments to other legislation to establish the necessary legislative environment to support the QWB redevelopment.

I look forward to the Queen's Wharf Brisbane with excitement, the jobs that it will create, the injection into the Queensland economy, the revitalisation of this area of Brisbane and, importantly, that our culturally significant and heritage places are to be protected and recognised that they are special and require special care and attention. I commend these bills to the House.