




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 23 February 2016

BRISBANE CASINO AGREEMENT AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (12.45 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Brisbane Casino Agreement Act 1992 to provide for the ratification of a new agreement. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Brisbane Casino Agreement Amendment Bill 2016 [216].

Tabled paper: Brisbane Casino Agreement Amendment Bill 2016, explanatory notes [217].

I am pleased to introduce the Brisbane Casino Agreement Amendment Bill 2016 into the Parliament today. As members would all be aware, on 20 July 2015 the Destination Brisbane Consortium was announced as the government's preferred proponent to revitalise an under-utilised area of state owned land in the heart of the Brisbane CBD known as Queen's Wharf Brisbane and stimulate the tourism and construction sectors of Queensland's economy.

The Queen's Wharf Brisbane Bill, which I tabled in parliament on 3 December 2015, outlined the many benefits the redevelopment of this area will deliver to the state. When I tabled the Queen's Wharf Brisbane Bill last year, I indicated that it was my intention to introduce a further bill into parliament to amend the Brisbane Casino Agreement Act 1992. The Brisbane Casino Agreement Amendment Bill will provide for the redevelopment of the current hotel-casino site to be approved under the same development approval scheme envisaged for the Queen's Wharf Brisbane project.

As members will be aware, the current hotel-casino site includes several historic Queensland landmarks such as the Treasury Building, Land Administration Building, Queens Park and the former State Library otherwise known as the John Oxley Library building. Any redevelopment proposed to be undertaken for repurposing these locations will now be approved by the minister responsible for Economic Development Queensland in line with Queen's Wharf Brisbane and in accordance with the Queen's Wharf Brisbane Development Scheme.

I would like to assure Queenslanders that these iconic landmarks will continue to be protected under the new development regime. This new arrangement allows for future redevelopment of the Brisbane casino-hotel complex to be assessed and approved under the framework envisaged for Queen's Wharf Brisbane. Development applications related to the current use of the Brisbane casino-hotel complex will continue to be assessed and approved under the Brisbane Casino Agreement. The replacement Brisbane Casino Agreement has been drafted in consultation with The Star Entertainment Group Ltd on behalf of its subsidiary, Jupiters Ltd, the current casino licensee and signatory to the original Brisbane Casino Agreement.

This bill will ratify the replacement Brisbane Casino Agreement and give it the full force of law in the state of Queensland. I am very pleased to be introducing this bill for parliament's consideration today. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (12.47 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

Question put—That the bill be now read a first time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee.