




Speech By  
**Peter Russo**  
MEMBER FOR TOOHEY

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## PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

### Construction Training Centre

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (2.27 pm): I rise in the House this afternoon to speak about the Construction Training Centre situated at Salisbury in my electorate. A lot of what I am going to talk about this afternoon comes from a history of the centre written by Mr Greg Shannon titled *Catalyst for Change?—the development and growth of the Construction Training Centre, Salisbury, Queensland (1992 to 2011)*.

This is where the journey begins. The Construction Training Centre at Salisbury was established in 1994. In the 1990s the concept of vocational training was nothing new. During the 1980s the need that drove change was the state of the Australian economy. Another feature of the eighties was the growing number of private training providers and the growth of group training companies, the latter providing an alternative to the traditional employer and employee relationship. Flexibility in approach to vocational training was to become the norm.

Whilst the search for suitable premises went on for some time, the premises at 460-492 Beaudesert Road, Salisbury, was where the Construction Training Centre finally found its home. Not so long ago I was invited to the centre to meet engineering students from different universities around Brisbane who were completing their final day of training at the centre.

Over a period the students constructed a replica of Brisbane's Story Bridge as part of their practical training while obtaining their engineering degrees. I understand this is an ongoing project, so someone must also have to dismantle the replica.

You may be asking what the significance of this is. The site of the Construction Training Centre in Salisbury was previously the Evans Deakin site where the Story Bridge was constructed before the steel beams were transported to Kangaroo Point and put together to construct the bridge we drive over today. The head instructor advised me that, as it was Friday, they were finishing at two o'clock to have a cold beer—you guessed it—at the Story Bridge Hotel.

The centre is a far cry from what it was when it was first purchased in 1990. I was lucky enough not only to meet the students on the day but I was also well looked after by the chief executive, Phil Diver, who gave me a full tour of the site. One of the principles of the centre is that apprentices are used on as much live work as possible. To this end, some of the projects or live work that the apprentices have worked on include: Browns Plains State High School; restoration work at the historic God's Acre Cemetery in Archerfield; the Acacia Ridge Bikeways project; the Wellers Hill Guide Hut; and renovating youth accommodation in Lawnton.