




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Queen's Wharf

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning) (9.47 am): Our state's strong health response to the COVID pandemic means that the 700 workers on the giant \$3.6 billion Queen's Wharf Brisbane never missed a beat. In fact, we were able to speed up construction last year during the height of the pandemic. We are one of the only places in the world able to keep our construction industries going largely unaffected throughout the pandemic, keeping Queenslanders in jobs and preventing delays. That means we are now about 80 weeks away from Queen's Wharf opening late next year.

The first section of the Queen's Wharf Neville Bonner pedestrian bridge was positioned at South Bank yesterday, ready to cross the river and connect to the Brisbane CBD. The Riverside Expressway will close this weekend and a 40-metre, 43-tonne section of the bridge will be craned into place at the city end. It is transformative infrastructure such as Queen's Wharf and Cross River Rail that will change the face of South-East Queensland. This will greatly increase pedestrian connectivity in our great city. Fifty years ago last Friday, in this very House, Neville Thomas Bonner was chosen to fill a casual Senate vacancy, making him the first Indigenous Australian to sit in the Australian parliament. Seeing the Neville Bonner pedestrian bridge go into place is a great acknowledgement of his legacy.

In recent weeks, another Queen's Wharf record was broken with a 10th tower crane going up on site, which is the most number of tower cranes for a single project site in the nation. Technically, there are 11 cranes if we include the one on a barge in the river that is working on the Neville Bonner pedestrian bridge.

Twenty years ago, there were 29 tower cranes up in Brisbane and then Premier Beattie was pretty chuffed about that. Today, according to the Rider Levett Bucknall's latest count, there are 71 cranes up in Brisbane as part of 120 cranes across Brisbane, the Sunshine Coast, Townsville, Cairns and the Gold Coast. By this time next year, more than 1,500 workers will be on site at Queen's Wharf as it readies to welcome an estimated 1.4 million annual visitors. It is another Palaszczuk government backed project that is creating jobs and accelerating Queensland's plan for economic recovery.