

BRISBANE'S NEW CONVENTION FACILITIES NOT FINISHED BUT ALREADY IN DEMAND

Conventions with an economic value to Brisbane of more than \$56.6 million have been confirmed for *Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre (BCEC) on Grey Street*, the new \$130 million expansion of the Centre's convention facilities.

The new five level boutique meetings and events facility has 15 confirmed conventions with a further 33 bookings awaiting confirmation.

Opening in 2011, *Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre (BCEC) on Grey Street*, will provide a 52% increase in the Centre's convention facilities, enabling the Centre to attract an additional 250 events each year and establishing it as Australia's most flexible meetings and events venue.

The 24,000 square metre development is specifically designed with boutique facility spaces to meet the increasing demand for conferences of 400 and 600 delegates.

Of the 15 confirmed conventions, seven are international events. Among the first to use the innovative new facilities will be 10th Industrial and Organisational Psychology Conference and World Congress on Agriculture each with an expected attendance of up to 600 delegates.

Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre General Manager, Mr Robert O'Keeffe said the unique feature of the expanded centre is the unprecedented flexibility offering facilities that provide the perfect fit for events of 400 and 600 as well as being able to accommodate larger events of up to 8,000 such as the 34th International Geological Congress in 2012 for an expected 6,000 delegates which will occupy the combined facilities of the Centre.

"Brisbane's growing appeal and positioning as Australia's new world city together with the additional and advanced facilities of Australia's newest and most flexible meetings and events venue is a powerful proposition on which we are already capitalising to the fullest in the marketplace as demonstrated by the early bookings and high levels of interest", Mr O'Keeffe said.

Construction of the five level development by builders, Laing O'Rourke, is on track for a mid 2011 opening. Currently three tower cranes dominate the 190 metre long site with completion of the entire ground floor and first floor slab including initial works on the underground water storage tank due by Christmas, and structural steel erection commencing in the New Year.

With its iconic contemporary design, the new Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre on Grey Street will change the architectural landscape of South Bank, adding to its vibrancy and enhancing its reputation as a world class urban lifestyle precinct.

Key features of *BCEC on Grey Street*

- Grey Street entry interfacing with the South Bank Precinct
- 18 additional meeting and event spaces
- Two tiered auditoria with 425 and 621 capacities
- Two additional executive boardrooms
- Two additional dedicated speakers presentation centres
- Brisbane's finest function room with expansive city and river views
- Boutique Ballroom
- Green features equivalent to a five star environmental rating

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