

Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre's \$140M expansion officially opens

Australia's newest convention venue – Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre (BCEC) on Grey Street – has been officially opened by The Hon. Rachel Nolan, Minister for Finance, Natural Resources and The Arts.

The Minister opened the five level \$140m boutique expansion of the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre (BCEC) during the annual Australia Day celebrations at the Centre. The date for the official opening has a special significance – being the same day as the Centre reopened for business last year following the January floods.

With its first events commencing in mid February, BCEC on Grey Street is already holding bookings for 292 events and has confirmed conventions to date which will generate in excess of \$70M in economic benefit to Brisbane and Queensland.

With the completion of the 25,000 square metre development, Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre is now equal in size to Australia's largest convention venue and based on enquires is forecasting a minimum additional 300 events on top of the 1,000 events it hosts annually.

The expansion of the Centre's facilities to a total of 44 meeting rooms including three stand alone tiered auditoria and some of Brisbane's most outstanding function venues, BCEC is now Australia's most flexible meetings and events venue.

The operation of the new venue will deliver employment for 100 additional full time equivalent employees.

BCEC on Grey Street has been designed to meet an increasing market demand for smaller and medium sized events providing the Centre with unprecedented flexibility to host events from 8 to 8,000 guests.

South Bank Corporation Chairman Steve Wilson said the completion of the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre expansion is a key milestone in South Bank Corporation's plan to revitalise Grey Street.

"We are thrilled that this project has been delivered successfully. Not only will this development contribute to one of the Corporation's most important urban renewal strategies but it will also further enhance the already outstanding convention and event facilities offered by this award-winning centre."

BCEC has been profitable every year since opening in 1995 and during the last financial year recorded its highest ever revenue in its 16 year history while also delivering an economic benefit to Queensland during that year of \$217 million.

BCEC General Manager, Bob O'Keeffe said the Centre will build on its previous record of achievement with BCEC on Grey Street the key driver to the Centre's continued outstanding performance.

"The addition of Grey Street to the Centre's existing resources generates a robust dynamic into the ultra competitive global market mix. The boutique nature of Grey Street is proving attractive to international and national meeting planners, with bookings exceeding targets."

Harvey Lister, Chairman and CEO of AEG Ogden, operators of the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre said the launch of BCEC on Grey Street would consolidate and provide a stimulus for Queensland's business events industry.

"I have every confidence that this will strengthen both the Centre's and Brisbane's leadership position in a very competitive marketplace resulting in new business development opportunities. AEG Ogden is very proud to manage and operate Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre, Australia's most awarded convention venue."

Images are available to download– click [here](#)

About BCEC:

Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre is owned by South Bank Corporation and proudly managed by leading international venue management specialists AEG Ogden.

About AEG Ogden:

AEG Ogden is a joint venture between Australian interests and AEG Facilities of the United States. AEG Ogden manages venues throughout the Asia Pacific region, including the Brisbane, Cairns, Darwin and Kuala Lumpur Convention Centres, the Qatar National Convention Centre (currently under construction), Suncorp Stadium in Brisbane, Sydney's Acer Arena, the Brisbane Entertainment Centre and the Newcastle Entertainment Centre, the Perth Arena (currently under construction) and live theatres including Perth's His Majesty's Theatre and the Perth Concert Hall.

About AEG Facilities:

AEG, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Anschutz Company, is the leading sports, entertainment and venue operator in the world. AEG Facilities, a stand-alone affiliate of AEG, owns, operates or consults with 100 of the industry's preeminent venues worldwide, across five continents, and works in concert with affiliated AEG entities, including live event producer, AEG Live, AEG Global Partnerships and AEG Development to support the success of AEG venues across the globe. AEG owns, operates or provides services to venues including STAPLES Center (Los Angeles, Calif.), The Home Depot Center (Carson, Calif.), Nokia Theatre L.A. Live (Los Angeles, Calif.), Citizens Business Bank Arena (Ontario, Calif.), Valley View Casino Center (San Diego, Calif.) Sprint Center (Kansas City, Mo.), XL Center and Rentschler Field (Hartford, Conn.), The Rose Garden (Portland, Ore.), KeyArena (Seattle, Wash.), KFC YUM! Center (Louisville, Ky.), AmericanAirlines Arena (Miami, Fla.), AT&T Center (San Antonio, Tx.), Time Warner Cable Arena (Charlotte, N.C.), Prudential Center (Newark, N.J.), Target Center (Minneapolis, Minn.), Mercedes-Benz Arena (Shanghai, China), MasterCard Center (Beijing, China), The O2 Arena (London, England), O2 World (Berlin, Germany), O2 World Hamburg (Hamburg, Germany), Ahoy Arena (Rotterdam, Netherlands), Pernambuco Stadium (Recife, Brazil), Acer Arena (Sydney, Australia), Globe Arenas (Stockholm, Sweden) and the Qatar National Convention Centre (Doha, Qatar). For more information, please visit www.aegworldwide.com

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