



**south bank**  
corporation

## media release

12 February 2008

### **Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre set for the Future**

Queensland's booming national and international conference and convention market is set to get another boost with a \$130 million major expansion of the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre.

South Bank Corporation Chairman Steve Wilson said the plans for the Centre's new convention facilities which will be located on vacant Grey Street sites at South Bank.

"The award-winning Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre is already established as a market leader, being officially ranked among the world's top three convention centres world-wide by the Association Internationale des Palais de Congres (AIPC).

"The expansion will ensure that Brisbane stays a prime destination for national and international conferences and conventions," Mr Wilson said.

"Our research indicates that there is a growing need for convention facilities with between 400 to 600 delegates and this expansion will fulfil that market demand.

"The unique design by local architects Cox Rayner will allow greater flexibility in accommodating events of different sizes at the one time, with two stand-alone tiered plenary halls and 15 meeting rooms," he said.

"It is critical that all new building developments incorporate environmental best practice standards and this will be no exception with the redevelopment including a three megalitre storage tank for harvesting rain water for use within the building.

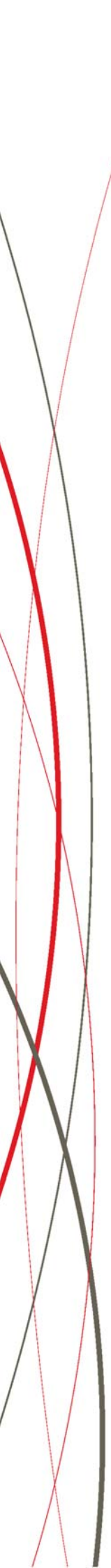
"The new facilities will link to the existing Centre at the Plaza Level and face the South Bank Cultural Forecourt. This will add to the activation of Grey Street as a retail and restaurant hub and provide a further link to the South Bank Precinct," Mr Wilson said.

"South Bank's Grey Street is recognised as the place where arts, theatre, education, business and residential living intertwine.

"This critical expansion of one of Australia's leading convention and exhibition centres will continue to activate, position and promote Grey Street as an integral part of South Bank's unique urban experience.

BCEC General Manager, Robert O'Keefe welcomed the announcement and said that the expansion would further enhance one of Australia's best performing convention centres and would accommodate an increasing demand for concurrent conventions up to 600 delegates.

"This expansion of the Centre's convention facilities will provide us with the infrastructure to host more than 250 additional new events each year," Mr O'Keefe said.



“With a yearly average of hosting 900 events and 850,000 visitors, the Centre recorded its busiest year yet last financial year.

“And our future is secure with the Centre holding 1000 event bookings through to 2013,” he said.

Construction on the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre redevelopment is expected to commence in mid 2008 and be scheduled for completion in mid 2010.

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Editors note: Images available.

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