

The 4546 meeting of the Brisbane City Council Tuesday 6 February 2018

Councillor TOOMEY: Thank you, Madam Chairman. My question is to the LORD MAYOR. This Administration is committed to building the local economy and creating new and innovative jobs. Can you please update the Chamber on some of the exciting new ventures investing in our New World City that are creating jobs for Brisbane residents?

LORD MAYOR: Thanks very much, Madam Chairman. I thank you, Madam Chairman, and I thank Councillor TOOMEY for his question. Madam Chairman, as is well known, today local government is far more than simply about roads, rates and rubbish. For some years now this Administration has had a clear economic plan for the city. It is about recognising that economies change, but also acknowledging that local government can play its part in making sure that we have a vibrant local economy and, where we can, look for opportunities to create jobs.

Madam Chairman, the economic development arm of this Council is Brisbane Marketing. It is a combination of resourcing from this Council and also that of the private sector through members of that organisation. It also acts in a regional capacity to look at how we can create benefit, not just for the City of Brisbane but indeed the whole region.

Now, today, Madam Chairman, is a case in point. Sometime back I was given the opportunity to meet with a group called the Hilton Food Group. This is an international company. I met with them in Sydney on a one-day mission down there, Madam Chairman, to sell the Brisbane message, and they have now determined to establish a facility in our city. That facility is at the Heathwood Logistics Estate.

Today, I saw the progress of that work. This is 500 jobs for Brisbane people. It is an economic impact for our city of some \$850 million. Madam Chairman, that group are a significant group in that they supply significant supermarket chains throughout this country but specifically that facility will deal with Queensland and New South Wales, most of New South Wales, in terms of the distribution of foodstuffs. It's well located. It will be right beside Asahi, which was another plant that I had the opportunity to open following the hard work of Brisbane Marketing at that Heathwood Logistics Estate.

Madam Chairman, today also—in fact, only about one hour ago—there was an announcement of another piece of work that we've been involved with, again through Brisbane Marketing, which is to see the Scottish beer giant called BrewDog come to Brisbane. This will be their first Australian investment, and once again it spells significant jobs—in this case a \$30 million investment, 150 new jobs.

This company is the largest craft brewer in Europe. So, for them to select Brisbane as their first venture into Australia is a vote of confidence in our city, and they will commence operations in 2019. Madam Chairman, BrewDog will be established out at Murarrie. They've identified a site out there as their preferred location, and the facility will initially serve the Australian market but with the potential to export to Asia. I dare say that Hilton Food Groups are in the same situation. We have often said that this city provides—particularly in that food and agricultural sector—a great opportunity, a landing pad if you like, between here and our closest neighbours in the Asia Pacific. So we very much welcome their investment into our city.

That announcement—well, actually there was recently a little survey undertaken by Dr Brett Stubbs that found there's more craft breweries opened in Brisbane in 2017 than any other Australian city. So I don't know what that says about our drinking habits here, but nonetheless, Madam Chairman, we do know that craft brewing is a growing area of attraction for consumers, and so we welcome the investment that Scottish beer giant BrewDog have made to our city.

With regards to Hilton Foods, the same applies, Madam Chairman. Again, their site out there at Heathwood will provide a great opportunity with access to not only the airport but also that of the shipping ports in this city, and they, too, will look, I am sure, further afield to exports into the future. I just want to acknowledge also LOGOS who are an Australian-based company of international investments as well. But they have been a great provider of those facilities, and we acknowledge and respect their investment in our city as well.