



THE STAR

## Media Release

### **INDUSTRY SEMINAR STARRING ROCKHAMPTON BEEF AND SWEET POTATO TO HELP CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR REGIONAL QUEENSLAND**

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Tender Rockhampton beef and buttery sweet potato will take centre stage at a culinary demonstration in the country's famous beef capital next week, to give locals a taste of why regional produce is important in creating authentic Queensland experiences for locals and visitors to the state.

The demonstration, featuring grass-fed beef fillet medallions from JBS facility at Nerimbera and Gracemere sweet potatoes, is part of a roadshow touring Queensland talking about jobs, training, and procurement opportunities with integrated resort company, The Star Entertainment Group.

The company is the lead partner in the Destination Brisbane Consortium, which will deliver the multi-billion dollar Queen's Wharf Brisbane integrated resort development due to open in Brisbane's CBD in 2022.

Treasury Casino & Hotel Executive Sous Chef Trevor Winch will get tastebuds tingling when he whips up his gourmet beef dish, which will also feature broccolini from the Fassifern Valley, west of Brisbane, and a wild fruit balsamic glaze made from native Queensland Indigenous products.

Mr Winch is a regular visitor to Rockhampton and is looking forward to showing how The Star Entertainment Group uses local ingredients to create mouth-watering menus.

In Queensland, the company operates the Treasury Casino & Hotel in Brisbane, and Jupiters Gold Coast.

"I've worked for the Treasury Casino & Hotel since it opened more than two decades ago, and over the years we have sought to find the best and freshest produce right across the state to highlight in our diverse offerings," Mr Winch said.

"We have found that locals and visitors want to experience high quality, authentic, and local Queensland flavours – that's what creates special memories for them and keeps them coming back.

"This will be so important when Queen's Wharf Brisbane opens in years to come, as it is expected to attract an extra 1.39 million tourists to Queensland each year.

"The development will have 50 new bars, cafes and restaurants, and this is just one of the aspects we want to speak to Central Queensland suppliers about: to start the conversation about how they might leverage this opportunity with their locally-grown produce, and to help us meet this demand."

The Star Entertainment Group Managing Director Queensland Geoff Hogg said the roadshow aims to drive awareness and innovation to help create 'quintessentially Queensland' integrated resorts.

"Queensland tourism has a bright and exciting future with record demand coming from Asia, in particular China, and forecasts predicting this will continue to rise strongly in the future," Mr Hogg said.

"The size and scale of our developments will provide significant jobs, training, and supplier opportunities for Queenslanders – but these do not need to be limited to the south east corner.

"We want to create 'quintessentially Queensland' integrated resorts and to do that, we need to find the best of Queensland.

“The best experience to help construct our iconic developments, the best talent to deliver five and six-star hospitality service when these open, and the best quality produce to plate up in our new restaurants, to name a few.”

The Queen’s Wharf Brisbane integrated resort will turn a largely underutilised part of the city into a world-class tourism, leisure, and entertainment destination, and is expected to generate more than 2000 jobs at peak construction, and 8000 jobs once fully operational.

Meanwhile, Jupiters Gold Coast is currently undergoing a \$345 million transformation including a refurbishment of the existing five-star hotel and the building of a new six-star all-suite hotel.

This investment could potentially increase to around \$850 million with a proposal, together with the company’s consortium partners, for a new 4.5-star hotel and apartment tower. If approved this year, construction could begin in 2017.

The 4.5-star tower, along with the six-star tower already underway, are expected to generate more than 1000 construction jobs and increase the property’s overall workforce to around 2300 employees once complete and fully operational.

Simultaneously, the company is also working with its consortium partners to explore a multi-billion dollar master plan concept for Jupiters Gold Coast, also subject to approvals.

“We’re really looking forward to providing audiences with an update on these developments on the roadshow, and to start a conversation across regional Queensland about what will be needed in the form of jobs, training, and suppliers in the years to come,” Mr Hogg said.

“We want people and businesses to come along to each roadshow so they can start thinking now about whether they could help contribute to making these developments great success stories for Queensland.”

The roadshow is being delivered by the Department of State Development, in partnership with The Star Entertainment Group, as part of its annual Major Project Series.

Following seminars in Brisbane, Toowoomba, the Sunshine Coast, Mackay, and Rockhampton, the roadshow will continue onto the Wide Bay Burnett region (via Maryborough), Springfield Lakes, the Gold Coast, Townsville, and Cairns until the end of November this year.

The Rockhampton event will take place on Wednesday 7 September 2016 from 7am to 9am at the Frenchville Sports Club, Clifton Street, North Rockhampton. To register, or to view the full Queensland schedule, visit [www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/mps](http://www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/mps).

**For more information:**

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