

## **Brisbane Islamic Centre Update**



### **Commencement of Construction**

A profound journey of some 12 years for the Muslim Ummah of Brisbane reached another milestone in its annals.

Alhamdulillah and with the Grace of Allah SWT, last Sunday morning (18 October 2020) saw the initial soil turning event at the Brisbane Islamic Centre (BIC) grounds in Underwood road, Eight Mile Plains. A special dua was made for the commencement of this stage of the project. This ceremony was attended by several eminent Imams, President of the Islamic Council Queensland and community leaders.

Dr Iqbal Sultan the vice president thanked everyone for attending and gave a brief summary of the progress made thus far.

Mr Faisal Hatia, President of BIC took time to explain the hardships faced in the initial stages of this project and expressed Gratitude to Allah SWT for bringing us all this far. He was also confident that, with Allah SWT's help, the project would be successful. He made special mention of Br Kemal Omar who was unable to attend today but was instrumental in this process from day one.

Imam Abdool Qudoos Azhari prayed for the success of the project reminding us that it is the duty of every Muslim to use his or her skills for the benefit of Islam, and made special mention of how Br Faisal Hatia was using his skills to develop a centre that would benefit generations who come after.

Habib Jamal, President of the Islamic Council of Queensland pledged his support and that of his organisation to the building of BIC. Mr Husain Goss of the Gold Coast Mosque in his charismatic style thanked brothers for their initial efforts to get to this stage and then reminded us all that we need to work hard to fund the project to completion.

Imam Yusuf Peer concluded the proceedings with a sincere plea to Allah SWT to reward all those who donate time, money and effort to this noble project.

The event ended with all the brothers present, shovelling a spade of sand symbolising the start of the next phase of the project, the construction of the Centre.

















With the arrival of many new migrants in the 1990's on Brisbane's southside, a group of Brothers identified a need for a holistic centre that would serve the new fledgling Muslim community. The need for such a centre soon become more apparent soon after the tragic events of 9/11. This defining event brought with it challenges for both Muslims and Non-Muslims alike. This centre amongst its many facilities will Insha'Allah address those challenges going into the future for generations to come.

A 10-acre property was secured in Eight Mile Plains, a suburb approximately 15 kms on Brisbane's southside. Planning commenced then for approximately half the property (5 acres) and in late 2016 a development approval (DA) was granted. The process to obtaining the approval was protracted and fraught with many obstacles. Other than the council not supporting the development, many objections were received from the wider community. This then left the BIC committee with the only avenue available to them and that was to appeal council's refusal in the Queensland Planning and Environment Court.

Earthworks and excavation commenced in 2017 and at this early stage of construction the project was faced with another dilemma. Excavation had to be limited and stopped, due to reaching the water table. For the project to continue, consultants were engaged to address the hydrology problem. This necessitated that the relevant conditions in the P&E Court approval had to be amended by the Court. The process to preparing submissions, reports, studies, etc, and obtaining the amendment to the approval took some 2 years.

And in tandem with the latter process, consultants were engaged to pursue a building approval that would allow construction of the building to commence.

Alhamdulillah both the court amended development approval (DA) and the build approval (BA) have been obtained recently and now in hand. The current COVID 19 pandemic also contributed to delays.

To date since inception, some \$4m has been expended on this project with donations and contributions from benefactors and the community at large. For the benefit of the reader the 10-acre land is valued in today's market to be more than \$10m.

Alhamdulillah the property is unencumbered and is wakaf and is held in an entity that no family or person/s have a claim to the property or the project. All that serve on BIC's committee do so for the sole pleasure of serving Allah SWA and the community.

Being an Islamic Centre, the cornerstone of the project would be a place of Worship with a large Masjid area for Women and Men.

Other facilities that will be offered at this Centre are:

- Dawah centre with fully time staff.
- Islamic Museum
- Educational Resource Centre
- Audio Visual Theatre seating for 150 visitors
- Cafeteria
- Seated dining area
- Serviced offices (12) with its own reception, board room and kitchen.
- Community Hall for functions
- Youth centre + gymnasium (separate) for male and females
- Madressa
- Islamic book and apparel (clothing) shop
- Janazah Gusal facilities
- Parking for 400 vehicles

It is estimated that the Centre will cost approximately \$18m to construct and the committee are targeting to have this completed within 3 years to the end of 2023, Insha'Allah. The committee will be looking to raise the construction funds from the

Muslim community here in Brisbane, Queensland, nationally and internationally. And prospective donors can make their donations payable equally over the 3 years. Inshallah in the coming months the official launch of the fund-raising campaign will commence.

More details are available on BIC's website

<https://www.bic.org.au/>

To discuss any aspect of your donation, please feel free to contact the secretary at Brisbane Islamic Centre.

Email: [secretary@bic.org.au](mailto:secretary@bic.org.au)

OR

contact one of the persons below:

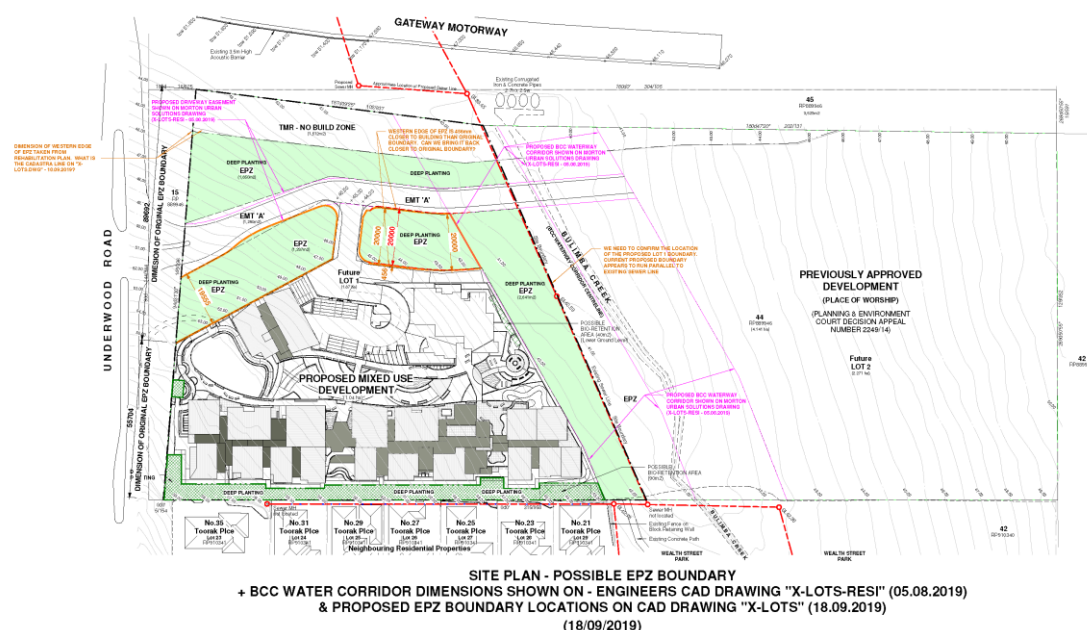
Imraan Price 0402898741

Ahmed Jina 0415189408

Ferial Jadwat 0468948222

## **Stage 2**

### **Retirement Village, Medical Centre and Child Care (remaining 5 acres, north of the Masjid)**



THE BIC committee also recognised that the Islamic Centre (Stage 1) will have its fair share of running expenses and a commercial arm needed to be created to sustain its expenses.

Notwithstanding the latter, the committee also recognised the lack of facilities for the aged in the Muslim community and the need to cater for them. A unique aspect of this community centre is that this stage comprises of a large retirement village with its own medical centre, high care and dementia care unit for the elders in our



community and a childcare centre. Stage two plans are currently with council in the assessment process.

Should the application be successful it will comprise:

- A retirement village of 91 apartments -1, 2 and a few 3 bedrooms
- 20 bed frail and aged care unit
- 12 bed dementia unit
- Medical centre (250 sqm) for both residents in the complex and for the neighbouring community.
- Childcare centre (75 places)

Approval of this stage is expected in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of next year, Insha'Allah.

More details and concepts of this stage will become available by early 2021.