

Mount Gravatt TAFE Upgrade Project

Submission to the Education, Employment & Training Committee

On behalf of

White Box Enterprises Pty Ltd

Committee Secretary – Education, Employment and Training Committee

Parliament House QLD 4000

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Dear Company Secretary for Education, Employment and Training Committee,

The following submission from White Box Enterprises Pty Ltd relates to the recent completion of the Mount Gravatt TAFE facilities upgrade of which White Box Enterprises was a direct and indirect benefactor.

White Box Enterprises is a Brisbane based Social Enterprise that works with DESBT, Government, Corporate and Private partners to create and build Social Enterprises that provide employment opportunities for the overlooked and underserved in Queensland and Australia.

It is through the partnership with DESBT and Queensland Government and projects such as this TAFE Upgrade that enable the creation of 350 ongoing and long-term jobs for young people living with disability or from refugee asylum seeking backgrounds.

White Box welcomed and enjoyed the opportunity to partner and work with DESBT and the Queensland Government on this project. We would welcome the opportunity to replicate the success of this project through ongoing partnerships where access to buildings or land is provided where White Box can reduce the burden on the Government to self-fund the renovation and building works to create more jobs for overlooked and underserved Queenslanders.

The following submission addresses the 9 questions and points of interest raised by the Department.

1. The stated purpose of the works and the apparent suitability of the works for the purpose

The upgraded Mount Gravatt TAFE project has created access to space in J-block and H-block that has enabled the creation of more than 350 jobs for overlooked and underserved Queenslanders over the last two years, a positive impact for Queensland and Australia.

The roles that have been created have positively and dramatically changed the lives for young people living with disability and those from asylum seeking backgrounds and providing them with opportunities they would not have otherwise had access to.

These changes and job opportunities would not have been possible without the dedication, collaboration and extensive support shown to White Box Enterprises by DESBT and the Queensland construction teams.

The stated purpose of the works and their suitability would therefore be quantified as highly aligned and highly effective.

White Box Enterprises would welcome further opportunities to work with Government to have access to additional land or buildings that we could adapt and renovate to support more people that continue to be overlooked and underserved by the community.

2. The necessity for, and the advisability of, the works

The upgrade works completed at Mount Gravatt TAFE were long overdue and needed given the state of the campus. The works completed have rejuvenated the campus feel and addressed many of the safety concerns of an old and dilapidated site.

DESBT and the Queensland construction teams were highly engaged throughout the process and worked with White Box Enterprises to understand our needs and requirements of our unique cohort of staff and together we worked to achieve the best outcome for the new employees including young people with disability and individuals from refugee asylum seeker backgrounds.

White Box Enterprises would love to work with Government to have access to additional buildings or land that we would be able to renovate at our expense to create more jobs for the overlooked and underserved.

The neighbouring M Block at TAFE Mount Gravatt which has been dormant for 15+ years would be the perfect place to continue to grow and deepen this partnership to the same level of success already witnessed in this upgrade program with the creation of 350 jobs over 2 years.

3. Value for money achieved, or likely to be achieved, by the works

The creation of 350 jobs for Queenslanders through White Box Enterprises who are overlooked and underserved has certainly demonstrated considerable value for the funds invested into this upgrade. This benefit will continue to provide more opportunities for young people living with disability and refugee asylum seeker background individuals for the long-term.

Beyond the job creation achievement and tangible measurement of value, there are additional benefits around providing financial security and stability to vulnerable families as well as improved mental health, a sense of community and being able to more actively contribute to the local, Queensland and National economy.

4. Revenue produced by, and recurrent costs of, the works or estimates of revenue and costs for the works

White Box Enterprises were extremely pleased with the work estimates, work completed and the costs associated.

5. The present and prospective public value of the works, including, for example, consideration of the impact of the works on the community, economy, and environment

The community impact and value cannot be understated with the upgrade creating 350 jobs for the overlooked and underserved in South East Queensland.

These works as a result have a considerable impact on the local economy and has empowered and provided the opportunity for young Queenslanders living with a disability as well as those

from refugee asylum seeker backgrounds to improve their personal financial position with long-term meaningful work.

The improved financial position lessens the burden on the public purse and enables families to be able to provide and become financially resilient even through cost of living pressures.

6. Procurement methods for the works

White Box Enterprises were extremely satisfied with the procurement methods, controls and support throughout the project.

7. The balance of public and private sector involvement in the works

White Box Enterprises worked closely with the DESBT and Queensland construction teams throughout the project ensuring that input was provided to deliver on the private sector requirements for White Box Enterprises while working within the public sector process and management teams.

The celebration and creation of 350 jobs over the last 2 years is a testament to achieving a healthy balance between sectors and delivering a project with a long-term positive outcome.

8. The performance of—

(i) the constructing authority for the works

White Box enjoyed working with DESBT and the Queensland Government on the refurbishment of both J and H blocks to create a social enterprise precinct.

The DESBT and Queensland Government construction teams were always thorough which each aspect of the project and delivered the project with high-performing response times to help us achieve the best outcome.

Most recently the air-conditioning upgrades for J-Block was a project where DESBT again were always thorough and responded quickly to any questions or concerns.

Without the support from DESBT and the Queensland construction teams we would not have had the space or ability to provide long-term jobs for 350 Queenslanders.

(ii) the consultants and contractors for the works; with particular regard to the time taken for finishing the works and the cost and quality of the works

The quality of the works completed was to a very high standard and has provided those working in the space with a great, healthy, vibrant and new working environment.

It is a great place to come to work to and White Box would welcome the opportunity to continue to deepen the partnership by working with the Government to create access to additional buildings or

land that we could renovate at our expense to create even more jobs for those who are overlooked or underserved.

The considerable scale of the project warranted the timeline and the results achieved to date are testament to the great outcome and quality of works.

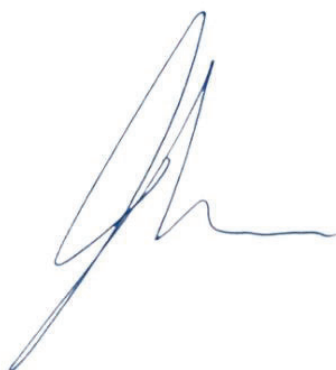
9. The actual suitability of the works in meeting the needs and in achieving the stated purpose of the works.

The suitability of the upgraded works is strongly aligned to the stated purpose for White Box Enterprises. Only through such partnerships were DESBT and White Box Enterprises able to create the 350 employment opportunities for the underserved and overlooked Queenslanders. Without the support of this upgrade project, White Box would not have been able to create or provide these opportunities.

It is through these critical partnerships with DESBT and Government that have facilitated and enabled such critical intervention through the creation of 350 jobs over the last 2 years for young people with disability or those from a refugee asylum seeking background.

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Author's Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Justin MacDonald', written in a cursive style.