



# ***STATE DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE AND WORKS COMMITTEE***

Mr JJ McDonald MP—Chair  
Ms JM Bush MP  
Mr TA James MP (via videoconference)  
Mr D Kempton MP (via videoconference)  
Mr SR King MP  
Ms B Asif MP (substituting for Mr Mellish via  
videoconference)

**Staff present:**

Ms S Galbraith—Committee Secretary  
Ms R Duncan—Assistant Committee Secretary

## **PUBLIC BRIEFING—INQUIRY INTO THE QUEENSLAND ACADEMY OF SPORT BILL 2025**

### **TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS**

**Monday, 3 March 2025**

**Brisbane**

## MONDAY, 3 MARCH 2025

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**The committee met at 9.30 am.**

**CHAIR:** Good morning. I declare open the public briefing for the inquiry into the Queensland Academy of Sport Bill 2025. I am Jim McDonald, member for Lockyer and chair of the committee. Other committee members with me here today are: Ms Jonty Bush, member for Cooper and deputy chair; Mr Shane King, member for Kurwongbah; Ms Bisma Asif, member for Sandgate, who is attending via videoconference and who is substituting for Mr Bart Mellish, member for Aspley; Mr Terry James, member for Mulgrave, who is also appearing via videoconference; and Mr David Kempton, member for Cook, who is appearing via videoconference.

The purpose of today's briefing is to assist the committee with its examination of the Queensland Academy of Sport Bill. The briefing is a proceeding of the Queensland parliament and is subject to the parliament's standing rules and orders. Only the committee and invited witnesses may participate in the proceedings. Witnesses are not required to give evidence under oath or affirmation, but intentionally misleading the committee is a serious offence. Members of the public may be excluded from the briefing at the discretion of the committee. I remind committee members that officers are here to provide factual or technical information. Questions seeking an opinion about policy should be directed to the minister or left to debate on the floor of the House.

The proceedings are being recorded and broadcast live on the parliament's website. Media may be present and are subject to the committee's media rules and the chair's direction at all times. You may be filmed or photographed during the proceedings and images may also appear on the parliament's website or social media pages. Please turn off your mobile phones or put them on silent mode. Finally, I remind everyone to please remember to press your microphone button before you start speaking and to press it off again when you are finished.

**GUYMER, Mr Chris, Project Director, Queensland Academy of Sport**

**MURDOCK, Ms Amy, Executive Director, Office of the Director-General, Department of Sport, Racing and Olympic and Paralympic Games**

**VANDERSEE, Ms Sarah, Deputy Director-General, Corporate Services, Department of Sport, Racing and Olympic and Paralympic Games**

**CHAIR:** I welcome our witnesses to the briefing. I invite you to brief the committee, after which committee members will have some questions.

**Ms Vandersee:** I would like to begin by acknowledging the traditional custodians of the land on which we gather today and pay my respects to elders past, present and emerging. I would like to thank the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee for giving the Department of Sport, Racing and Olympic and Paralympic Games the opportunity to speak at the inquiry today. I acknowledge and appreciate the importance of the committee's work in examining the Queensland Academy of Sport Bill 2025 and welcome the chance to join today's briefing.

With regard to the Queensland Academy of Sport Bill 2025, the academy is a unique fixture within the Queensland government. All efforts of the academy and its staff are directed to supporting the high performance of athletes here in Queensland. The objectives of the legislation introduced in February are to establish the academy as a statutory body. This decision was based on feedback from the high-performance community and seen as the best structure to support the academy's unique business. As a statutory body, the academy will be overseen by an appropriately skilled board which will allow staff to act with agility, efficiency and flexibility to ensure Queensland athletes are able to perform successfully on the world stage.

The legislation is intended to commence from 1 July 2025 to avoid protracted uncertainty for the staff of the academy. As you can appreciate, the staff at the academy are already preparing ahead of the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games and we want to ensure any potential disruptions for sports and athletes are minimised as much as possible.

The department undertook extensive consultation with several interstate high-performance sports institutes as well as a range of Queensland statutory bodies to inform the development of this legislation. The purpose of the academy does not change as part of the transition to its independent form. It will continue to assist emerging and elite Queensland athletes to achieve success at the Olympic and Paralympic Games; to identify and foster the development of Queenslanders who demonstrate the talent to become future elite athletes; and to collaborate with institutes of sport and national and Queensland sporting organisations to maximise the success of Australian athletes at the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The athlete journey is at the heart of everything the academy does to prepare and support athletes to achieve world-class success. The academy's functions centre around athlete development; specialist multidisciplinary performance support, including athlete wellbeing; talent identification; coaching excellence; access to training facilities; strategic partnerships; and research.

The academy will have all the powers of an individual entity and may do anything necessary or convenient in the performance of its functions. In addition to this, the academy will have some particular powers: to allow the performance of its functions in the areas of giving access to academy resources, services or facilities to persons from other states to foster cooperation in Australian high-performance sport; to conduct sporting competitions; to enter into commercial or other arrangements such as sponsorship or marketing of the academy; accepting gifts, devises or bequests; and charging fees for goods or services provided by the academy, including providing access to facilities and admission to events run by the academy.

The bill establishes the academy as a legal entity with control over its own funds, overseen by an independent, appropriately skilled board of directors. The directors will have a range of qualifications, skills or experience in business or financial management, corporate governance, law, Olympic or Paralympic sport or other high-performance sport. Directors will be appointed to the board by the Governor in Council on recommendation from the minister, with conditions and remuneration to be decided by the Governor in Council. The minister may appoint a director in an acting capacity for a period of up to six months, with a further extension option of up to six months, provided that they are satisfied the person could be recommended for ongoing appointment. The board's functions include deciding which sports the academy will support and how these sports will be supported, ensuring the academy performs its functions in a proper, efficient and effective way while creating a safe, fair and healthy sporting environment.

A chief executive will be appointed to ensure the effective and efficient day-to-day administration and operation of the academy. The chief executive officer will be appointed by the Governor in Council on recommendation from the minister, with conditions and remuneration to be decided by the Governor in Council. The minister may appoint a chief executive officer in an acting capacity for a period of up to six months, with a further extension option of up to six months, provided they are satisfied the person could be recommended for ongoing appointment.

All staff employed at the academy will transition to the statutory body with no change in their employment conditions and entitlements. Where a staff member chooses, by written notice to the chief executive officer prior to 30 September 2025, they may return to the Department of Sport, Racing and Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Further, the minister may give written direction to the academy with which it must comply, but only following consultation with the board and if the minister is satisfied the direction is in the public interest. The minister may also provide the academy with a statement of expectations, which the academy must give regard to in the performance of its functions. For transparency, both ministerial direction and statements of expectations along with any details of gifts, devises or bequests received in the financial year must be reported within the academy's annual report.

The move to an independent entity will position the academy for even more success now and into the future and provide Queensland athletes with a winning advantage leading into Los Angeles 2028 and Brisbane 2032. I would like to thank the committee again for the opportunity to participate today. I will be happy to answer any questions and look forward to hearing about the committee's findings in relation to this bill.

**CHAIR:** Thank you very much, Ms Vandersee.

**Ms BUSH:** Thanks, everyone, for coming in today. I just want to get some background, if I can. I am aware of some of the background of the bill. I know that when we were in government we commenced a review in 2023 or 2024 and that has led to this, but I do not know if that review is public, and I heard you say that most of the consultation was with the high-performance industry. Can you just step us through why the change? You have done a great job in your opening statement, but what was the problem looking to be solved by this and maybe you can tell us whether the review is public?

**Ms Vandersee:** Upon becoming the Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, Minister Mander requested that the department undertake a comprehensive review to assess whether the former government's decision to transition the academy to a statutory body was in the public interest. The review was informed by consultation with several interstate high-performance sports institutes as well as a range of Queensland statutory bodies and central government agencies. It found that the academy's ability to fully achieve its objectives is often hindered by the structural and administrative requirements that come with being embedded within a government department and confirmed that the most appropriate organisational form for the ongoing operations of the academy is a statutory body. The statutory body model offers the academy the highest level of operational and financial independence while maintaining accountability to government standards and public sector regulations. The findings of the review informed the policy objectives of the bill and are outlined in the policy objectives. They can be found on the first page of the explanatory notes for the bill. That is the way that we will publish the outcomes of the review.

**Ms BUSH:** Okay. So the first review that the Miles government commissioned and the second, Mander review will not be public but elements of that will be incorporated into the explanatory notes, or were in the explanatory notes?

**Ms Vandersee:** They are in the explanatory notes.

**Ms BUSH:** Okay; thank you. I totally accept that what you are saying is that we need to set the academy up in a different way to meet where we are wanting to go. I guess I am also looking at the fact that for 30 years it has done very well, so without something to look at it is difficult to see what changed, but that is fine; I will go back and have another look at the explanatory notes and it will probably be clearer as we keep going.

**Mr KEMPTON:** I am very new to this whole academy process, but I am wondering what strategies the academy has to bridge the divide—even if it is only a perception—between the south-east corner and regional Queensland in terms of representation, funding and outcomes.

**Ms Vandersee:** This legislation seeks to provide the effective operation of the academy and give it the independence it needs to best serve athletes right across this great state. This will allow for additional focus to be placed on programs such as YouFor2032. The YouFor2032 talent search is designed to match aspiring athletes and para-athletes with the Olympic and Paralympic sports where they have the greatest potential for success. Staff from the academy have travelled more than 30,000 kilometres to more than 40 locations, including 25 regional centres from the Torres Strait to Coolangatta and from Cunnamulla and beyond, testing Queenslanders. More than 5,700 aspiring athletes have been tested across Queensland through the YouFor2032 program, with every athlete tested receiving a personalised performance report against national and international benchmarks. Some 2,044 athletes have been identified and progressed into the next phase for YouFor2032, including 422 athletes invited to targeted development programs and 23 athletes who have been selected to further state or national programs. I am aware that the academy is also independently putting thought to how to improve support for regional athletes across this state. Maximising the efficiency of the academy will further enhance its ability to consider such options and implement innovative solutions for supporting athletes across the state.

**Mr KING:** The consultation has been fairly comprehensive. You said that you interviewed many sports organisations. I am wondering how much athletes and coaches were involved, because in the end they are the beneficiaries. What I am getting at is: was there comprehensive consultation at the grassroots level? Once again, it may be in the report.

**Ms Vandersee:** We certainly consulted with a number of interstate high-performance sports institutions as well as the Queensland statutory bodies. We have had athletes and many people speak on behalf of this bill. Wayne Bennett recommended that there be a review into the entity. Peter Conde, the former director of the Australian Institute of Sport, and Cate Campbell came out and spoke for it. More recently Shayna Jack, Natalie Cook and Duncan Armstrong as athletes all spoke in support of the establishment of the Queensland Academy of Sport as a statutory body. To quote Shayna Jack, who is a two-time Olympian from Paris—

Becoming an independent group allows the QAS to have a bit more of an athlete focus—we will actually get the support we need going through to the games in LA, but even more excitingly in Brisbane.

Five-time Olympian Nat Cook said—

Having the Queensland Academy of Sport become a statutory body allows them to make dynamic, nimble decisions to get our athletes at the right events at the right time with the right preparation. The staff here are amazing at what they do but they spend a lot of time on red tape. Let's remove some of that.

**Mr KING:** That answers what I was getting at. Sometimes you find that you do something but the people it was supposed to benefit do not. Something piqued my interest, so before I forget I will ask you about it. You were talking about the accepting of gifts and other things and there were some protocols you mentioned about declarations. For my own interest, are there any value limits set on that?

**Ms Vandersee:** No. It is as long as it is published.

**CHAIR:** Following on from the point about commercial opportunities, you said that you did a lot of consultation with other bodies. Were any of the other bodies particularly successful in attracting additional commercial funds?

**Ms Vandersee:** I might ask if my colleague Chris can answer that one.

**Mr Guymer:** We did speak to two sporting institutes from other jurisdictions. In the consultation that we undertook we learned they had mixed success in terms of attracting commercial sponsorship. However, what we got in the feedback was that being able to be nimble and market the Queensland Academy of Sport as an independent body would increase our opportunities in terms of those sorts of sponsorship arrangements into the future.

**CHAIR:** Can you tell us about the impediments for those commercial opportunities in the current model?

**Ms Vandersee:** The academy operates in a highly specialised field and requires unique operational structures. Shared resources and rigid administration systems can limit its operational efficiencies. Establishing the academy as a statutory body provides the most effective solution to these. In terms of commercial partnerships, we have been advised that partners may not want to partner with a department but are more open to partnering with a statutory body form.

**CHAIR:** Thank you. Can you also talk to us about the 5,700 potential athletes for the YouFor2032 program and the benefits of those? As you said in your opening address, it is all about winning.

**Ms Vandersee:** In April 2022, YouFor2032 was launched. It is Australia's largest athlete talent search program undertaken by a state institute and is being delivered by the Queensland Academy of Sport. The YouFor2032 talent search is designed to match aspiring athletes and para-athletes with the Olympic and Paralympic sports where they have the greatest potential for success. This unique program connects future athletes with coaching and support to help them succeed. It aims to make sure every Queensland kid gets the chance to try for their Olympic and Paralympic dream.

As I said before, staff of the academy have travelled more than 30,000 kilometres to more than 40 locations, including 25 centres from the Torres Strait to Coolangatta and from Cunnamulla and beyond, testing Queensland kids. There are more than 5,700 aspiring athletes who have been tested so far, and we look forward to the expansion of that program. As I said before, 2,044 athletes have been identified and progressed into the next phases of the YouFor2032 program, including 422 athletes invited to targeted development programs, and 23 athletes have been selected to further state or national programs. In December 2024, over a very short period of only four weeks, the program travelled over 4,000 kilometres and tested 450 young athletes aged 13 to 23 years.

**Ms ASIF:** The first thing that popped up when you were talking about the establishment of the body and how appointments are made was that it seems a lot of the initial appointments are made at the recommendation of the minister. Are you able to clarify the process that would be undertaken, whether that would be a public process and people would be invited to apply? Could you step through how that would happen?

**Ms Vandersee:** There is strong public interest in ensuring there is appropriate oversight and accountability imposed on people who seek appointment or are appointed to the academy. Therefore, appropriate integrity safeguards have been provided to ensure that both the chief executive officer and the members of the board act in the interest of the academy. A person cannot be appointed or will be disqualified from being appointed as a board member or the chief executive officer if they have a conviction for an indictable offence, are insolvent under administration, are disqualified from managing corporations because of the Commonwealth Corporations Act and/or contravene requirements to disclose and not take appropriate action on matters which are a conflict of interest. Additionally, a person is disqualified if they do not consent to criminal history checks. As an additional integrity safeguard, the bill provides offences for members of the board or the chief executive officer in line with other statutory bodies across Queensland's statute book. Other government CEOs and board appointments are also at the discretion of the minister. We have actually copied wording from other legislation for existing statutory bodies.

**Ms ASIF:** I assume that when these appointments are being made or it is open that will be publicly advertised. Do you know if that is the case? Will it be put on Seek or online, or is that something the minister decides?

**Ms Vandersee:** It will be a matter for the minister and cannot be finalised at the moment until the passage of the legislation. We would not want to pre-empt the passing of this legislation, so no decision has been made on that as yet.

**Ms ASIF:** You have spoken about the review, which I can understand has not been made public for reasons. Would it be possible to share it with the committee? I have read through the explanatory notes, but it would be helpful to some of the points other members have made around the research and consultation that you have conducted as part of the review.

**Ms Vandersee:** I will get some advice on that and come back to you, if that is okay.

**CHAIR:** Member for Cook, did you have a question?

**Mr KEMPTON:** I have nothing further at this stage. It has been a very comprehensive briefing so any questions I had have been answered.

**Ms BUSH:** I am probably circling around to the same line the member for Sandgate raised. I am looking through the notes now. Thank you for referring me to that. I think I can read into what some of the issues were around flexibility and more commercial opportunities. The IT system, which we might talk about in a minute, sounds like it was a bit tricky. The bill also gives quite a lot of functions and powers to the board, including that the board can basically decide which sports the academy will support and progress. It feels like that is a big decision to make, particularly when it is ultimately one person—the minister—who is appointing these positions. I accept your position that there are criminal history checks, but, hypothetically—and I know we are not talking hypothetical—I get a little nervous that we may end up with a bunch of hand-picked people who decide they do not want to grow women's sport, for example, and they will not invest in women's sport anymore. What are the safeguards around those bigger, more strategic issues for Queensland? Looking across at other jurisdictions, is there any way we can somehow strengthen this bill, or do you feel that the bill is sufficiently strong to make sure the committee cannot take it on a journey that is not in Queensland's best interests?

**Ms Vandersee:** At the moment, the decision for what the academy supports in terms of sport is actually for the academy employees. By bringing in a management board actually strengthens governance over those decisions. The board is going to be made up of not just high-performance sport people. We will be seeking a board with varied experience: business acumen, legal, HR, along with Olympic and Paralympic experience, as well high performance. By bringing it to a management board, it actually strengthens it and it strengthens the decisions of the academy as it is now.

**Ms BUSH:** So the board will not be unilaterally deciding? They will be deciding in collaboration with employees?

**Ms Vandersee:** Yes.

**Ms BUSH:** They will be publishing those decisions?

**Ms Vandersee:** No. I will hand over to Chris to answer that question.

**Mr Guymer:** The funding decisions on what sports are supported and to what extent they are supported are not currently published publicly. They are contained within funding deeds that are agreed with the sports after consultation with the sports following the decisions made internally.

**Ms BUSH:** Is that something the department would consider could happen in an annual report, perhaps in a summary of strategic priorities and what is getting funding and where we are going? As a member of parliament I know that so many young athletes want to know, 'Where is my future in this sport?' It does help having a bit of oversight.

**Ms Vandersee:** It would be a matter for the management board to decide if they are best placed to publish that. However, I would encourage any aspiring athlete to go to the Queensland Academy of Sport's website. There is a really strong vision and strategy already there. That will be reviewed by the new CEO and the management board. That gives great direction for where the academy is going and would help an aspiring athlete certainly to be engaged in that. I also would encourage any aspiring athlete to search on the YouFor2032 website and to be tested, because that is a fantastic opportunity for every kid in Queensland to engage with their Olympic and Paralympic dreams.

**Ms BUSH:** Great pitch; good work. I agree.

**CHAIR:** Deputy Director-General, can you talk to us about the skills-based board and the importance of that governance structure, to allay the deputy chair's fears?

**Ms Vandersee:** It will be overseen by an independent and appropriately skilled board of directors. The directors who will be sought will have a range of qualifications and skills or experience in business or financial management, corporate governance, law, Olympic or Paralympic sports or other high-performance sport. It is important that we have a mix of all facets that we have identified there to ensure that the appropriate governance is considered over the Queensland Academy of Sport. We are not just putting Olympic and Paralympic Games and high-performance sport on the board but we are also looking for that balance with business and financial management, because the entity will be responsible for its own financial position and reporting against that financial position.

As structured, there will be committees of the board. For example, there would have to be an audit and risk committee that will include both board members and staff and possibly external members as well. There is a structure that will be established with the establishment of this statutory body that will better support its governance.

**Mr KING:** You mentioned earlier that there is no problem with employees who come across to the new board but would rather go back to the department. Could you unpack that a bit more? I believe you said that by a certain time they would have to write. I think it is a really good initiative that no-one is forced. From what you have said, people will probably be jumping to get there but it works both ways. Could you unpack that a bit?

**Ms Vandersee:** The bill contains a provision for staff of the academy who transition to the new statutory body to revert to the department within three months of transition. If the statutory body kicks off on 1 July, they will have until 30 September to provide their written notice to the academy's chief executive officer. This provision was included as a safety net for staff. Where there is a vacant, appropriate and funded position available for the reverting employee to fill, the staff member will be placed into that role in the department. Where there is no such role, the department will follow the Supporting Employees Affected by Workplace Change directive. This government does support the Queensland government Employment Security Policy and will work within those frameworks to ensure staff are supported.

**Mr KING:** I was wondering about the three-month time period and whether their job would be held open just in case, but there is another process. Thanks, that satisfies my question.

**CHAIR:** The explanatory notes talk about the benefits of travel and procurement under the new structure. I have asked about commercial opportunities and income or revenue services, but can you talk to us particularly around travel and procurement?

**Ms Vandersee:** In terms of the travel process, many of our Queensland academy employees travel internationally to international meets, to international training camps and obviously to Olympic and Paralympic Games and the Commonwealth Games. The process of getting approval for those who are travelling is extensive. The establishment of the statutory body will assist to streamline the approval process. Appropriate approvals will still need to be gained, of course.

In terms of procurement, the entity, as its own body, will be able to streamline its procurement processes and identify ways to better engage with the market. It is a particularly interesting space, with very highly specialised products that are required to support the athletes. It is important that we have a fit-for-purpose procurement process to support the athletes or the procurement of highly specialised equipment for those athletes.

**Ms ASIF:** I have a question in relation to the appointments regarding how the pick is done of, as you say, skills that have been brought to the table. I note that a couple of appointments have been made to the board in relation to 2032 that have missed the point of view of Paralympians. I know that it says Olympian and Paralympian experience is to be brought to the board. How is it going to be safeguarded that that perspective is ensured? Also, I go to the point of the member for Cooper around women's sport. We are seeing how incredibly important it is that we continue to expand and strategise around how we support athletes when it comes to women's sport. Could you reiterate how those appointments would be made so that those particular skills and experiences are brought to the table?

**Ms Vandersee:** In terms of representation on boards, it is a requirement of the Queensland government to have fifty-fifty representation of females on all boards. I can assure the member that certainly women will be appropriately represented on the board. In terms of Paralympic representation, it is actually a key tenet of the Queensland Academy of Sport that Paralympics is supported.

Our recent achievements in Paris are actually our best ever games results. It was also our best ever for our Paralympic Queensland team. It was interesting that Paralympic athletes in Australia did not perform so well but the Queensland team did. Of the 152 Australian Paralympic team athletes, 49 were from Queensland. Queensland had its greatest number of Paralympic medals, with 28 athletes winning a total of 28 medals. That equates to 32 per cent of the overall Australian Paralympic team being Queensland athletes and 44 per cent of the medals being won by Queensland athletes. I think that is a real testament to how the academy currently focuses on Paralympic sport. I highlight to you that we have recently announced \$2 million funding in the academy to launch a new Para Sport Unit that will more than double the pipeline of future Paralympians on the road to Brisbane 2032. The changing of the entity structure to become a statutory body will not change our focus on Paralympic sports.

**Ms ASIF:** Thank you. That is very helpful and great to know. I have a question around the functions of both the board and the QAS. There is a lot in the legislation and the explanatory notes around the functionality. How do the powers and functions of the QAS compare to other jurisdictions?

**Ms Vandersee:** The functions of the Queensland Academy of Sport and the bill were modelled on the New South Wales Institute of Sport. We used that as an exemplar to ensure we were developing functions and powers that were consistent with the national model but also with the New South Wales Institute of Sport as an exemplar for us.

**CHAIR:** You mentioned elite athletes and the procurement of significant equipment for them. Can you talk to us about the confidence you have for the IT systems and the procurement of those?

**Ms Vandersee:** At the moment, the very highly specialised nature of the academy limits the utility of our shared resources, which are shared with the department. We believe that that is affecting the efficiency of its operations. By establishing it as a statutory body, the Queensland Academy of Sport will be able to procure fit-for-purpose IT solutions. In our consultation with the New South Wales Institute of Sport we found that they believe this was one of the key tenets for why a statutory body should be created—to ensure fit-for-purpose IT systems can be procured but also kept in confidence. We are already in the digital age, but as sport progresses in the digital age it is important that any competitive advantage that could be gained from a specialised IT solution can be kept confidential and highly confidential. By establishing appropriate procurement for the statutory body, that will be able to be kept highly confidential.

**CHAIR:** I imagine there would be some significant IP around that.

**Ms BUSH:** I think Bisma and I are on a unity ticket with our lines of questioning today. Thank you so much, Sarah, for being really responsive to us as well. I note there is bipartisan support around the intention of the transition, but I guess my spidey senses go off when I see things such as efficiencies, moving to more of a commercial agreement, ministerial appointments and quite broad ministerial powers. I am hearing there is an opportunity to attract a whole new range of funding that will actually set us to be in a really great place, but I do get nervous about women and our para-athletes. The reality is that, although we know they are the most exciting and dynamic athletes we have, they do not attract the level of funding—for reasons we all know. I am a bit nervous about where we might go here. That might be more of a comment than a question—we probably have prosecuted it today—but I do want to say that.

I want to ask about the ministerial powers, which are quite broad and can compel the board to basically undertake any review or do anything within the powers and the functions afforded to them. Is that commensurate with other jurisdictions? What is that intended to do? What is the thinking behind that section in part 5?

**Mr Guymer:** It is consistent with other jurisdictions and other statutory bodies, particularly within Queensland, that we looked at through the research base to have the ministerial direction and then also the statement of expectations included in the legislation. The intent is to make sure that if the minister feels there is something within the public interest that needs direction then that can be done, but it is being counterbalanced with the reporting requirements within the academy's annual report to make sure that any direction that is given is publicly reported.

**Ms BUSH:** Chris, can you enlighten me: where have other jurisdictions used that power? Have the ministers used that power in other states?

**Mr Guymer:** I am not privy to that information. The research that we did was more about the fact that it was included within the legislation for other statutory bodies, particularly in Queensland.



**Ms Vandersee:** Further to that, when we were previously the department of tourism and sport we had a close alignment with Tourism and Events Queensland, and I can advise the committee that Tourism and Events Queensland have used that power but reported it in their annual report.

**Ms BUSH:** Great. Thank you for that insight. Thanks, team.

**CHAIR:** There are no further questions, Deputy Director-General. Thank you very much for your attendance today. The briefing was very comprehensive and your answers to the questions also very helpful. That concludes our questions and these proceedings. Thank you to everyone who has participated today. There was an issue of the research—

**Ms Vandersee:** If you do not mind, could I please return to that question?

**CHAIR:** Yes.

**Ms Vandersee:** It was about whether the review would be published. The first review, which was commenced and completed under the previous government, is cabinet-in-confidence. The second review is also considered cabinet-in-confidence but the outcomes are clearly outlined in the explanatory notes.

**CHAIR:** Thank you very much. Thank you to our Hansard reporters and broadcast staff for their assistance. A transcript of today's briefing will be available on the committee's webpage in due course. I declare this public briefing closed. Thank you.

**The committee adjourned at 10.18 am.**