



Speech by

DESLEY SCOTT

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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ARTS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Mrs DESLEY SCOTT (Woodridge—ALP) (5.03 p.m.): The strength of the arts in all its very diverse forms is a clear indication of a healthy society where citizens not only have an opportunity to enjoy professional performers and view travelling exhibitions but also are able on a local level to be involved in the arts. Our minister has been a great champion in bringing the arts to the people. I will have many happy memories of being with him on a number of those occasions, particularly in my electorate.

During my term in this government I have had the privilege of travelling to many remote areas of the state, and I can say that the arts are alive and well in every corner of this state. There are remarkable artists producing fantastic artworks. As members will be aware, the Lockhart River Art Gang has produced many amazing artists—young women such as Rosella Namok, whose paintings are just superb and have come to the attention of the international art world. So wrapped up in their art are members of the Lockhart River community that I recall a delightful scene on the veranda of the arts centre. As the barbecue sizzled, I noticed the gentleman turning the steaks and sausages put down his tongs and turn to his canvas, taking up his paintbrush—and so he alternated tongs and brush until our lunch was cooked.

Wherever we went on the cape we saw beautiful artworks on canvas, in wood carvings and the like. The cultural, artistic expressions through dance, song, poetry and many other forms make our indigenous communities of great interest and importance. One of the principles outlined in this legislation is to affirm respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures through our cultural statutory authorities. In my own electorate a number of Aboriginal artists enjoy wide recognition. Among them are Reg Knox, Clive Sam and Neville McKenzie, to name but a few. Albert and Nancy Bowie continue to promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art and culture throughout the state and beyond.

Turning to the performing arts, there are wonderful opportunities for young people to hone their skills in school orchestras and bands, amateur theatrical groups, choirs, dance groups and the like, and many young people have gone on to join the ranks of our professionals. My own niece—Alana Scott—attended Fairholme College in Toowoomba, then studied voice at the Conservatorium of Music and is now studying at the University of Queensland. Now just 21 years of age, she has been accepted into the Queensland Opera Company and is performing in its present production of *Sweeney Todd*.

Ms Liddy Clark: Which is fantastic!

Mrs DESLEY SCOTT: Isn't it great—at just 21!

Ms Liddy Clark: A lot of my friends from Melbourne are in it.

Mrs DESLEY SCOTT: Oh, good. I am going to enjoy that performance very soon. Such are the opportunities for talented young people today.

My own Logan City Theatre Company, of which I am patron, continues to offer great entertainment to our city through regular productions at our historic Kingston butter factory. This offers a great opportunity for our community members to enjoy either acting or assisting with costumes and props. I must commend Judith and Peter Sherry, who have been the backbone of that company which this year celebrated its 20th anniversary. One of my branch members, Paul Wincen, has been a long-time member of the company, and I know that amateur companies such as this encourage youth participation and generally enrich our community.

Logan City is a very wealthy society when viewed culturally. Our diverse ethnic mix brings a fantastic array of dance, song and wonderful ritual. I wish to commend the minister, the Hon. Matt Foley, for his recognition of regional areas such as Logan which could very easily have remained as a backroom to Brisbane. The investment of a \$2 million grant to our Logan Entertainment Centre, along with \$2 million from the Hon. Nita Cunningham, the Minister for Local Government, enabled Logan City Council to build a very flexible entertainment centre costing \$6 million which now hosts dinners, awards nights, concerts, seminars and many cultural events.

The Civic Centre of Logan has become an important arts precinct. Our regional art gallery, under the direction of Annette Turner, has regular exhibitions from Exploring Outback, with Sidney Nolan, Russell Drysdale and Albert Namatjira, to hosting many of our home grown local artists such as Anniko Kevin, with Flowers; Steven Cardno, with Wildlife; Darren Johnson, with his caricatures of the Logan River which appear in Mary Howell's wonderful historical book of the river; Margaret Fredrickson, with her Mountains of Guillin; and Wendy Pound, with her self-portraits of her and her dog. Our Logan Artists Association, led by Samida Sargeant, has regular exhibitions, including one here at Parliament House.

The arts enrich our lives, and I am happy to report that from the youngest child to the elderly we cater for them very well. Logan now hosts Hallelujah Logan, part of the Biennial Music Festival. We enjoy groups such as our Logan City Choir, Logan City Youth Orchestra, youth groups such as The Groove, Logan Jumping Beans, Cantible Singers and the wealth of talent in our schools. We have talented writers, poets, sculptors—they are all there. While ever our regional, amateur, artistic expression is nurtured as it is, our major cultural authorities will continue to be relevant and renewed with new and youthful talent.

The Queensland Museum, Queensland Art Gallery, State Library, Queensland Performing Arts Trust and Queensland Theatre Company fill an important place in our state's cultural life. I would particularly like to thank the minister, who I believe has done a great deal for the arts in Logan City and throughout our state. There are many memorable occasions that I will always recall. I am happy to support this legislation and thank those responsible for the details of this bill.