




Speech by

Dale Shuttleworth

MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE

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QUEENSLAND ART GALLERY AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr SHUTTLEWORTH** (Ferry Grove—LNP) (9.22 pm): I rise in the House today to give my very brief but very relevant support to the Queensland Art Gallery Amendment Bill 2012. The primary aim of the bill is to provide the Art Gallery Board of Trustees the capacity to establish a committee to undertake the important function of the foundation in raising funds, attracting donations and bequeathed funds. The foundation, first established in 1979, has been highly effective in attracting over 1,400 members and over \$75 million in funds, used to maintain and further develop the facilities and increase our state's collection of works.

To ensure that corporate governance and best practice is maintained throughout the Art Gallery board, it is proposed that the foundation structure is changed to become a committee of the board and therefore wholly accountable through the board. Further, there is an amendment which will allow the board to establish a committee with at least two existing board members and may extend membership to include foundation members or other non-board members. The financial benefit this is likely to deliver at this point is impossible to quantify. However, with my experience in building business benefits through networking and the establishment of extended associations, I believe the proposed model will almost certainly deliver substantial benefit to the Art Gallery board and the foundation.

To ensure the structure of the committee can attract the best persons to fulfil the functions of the committee, this bill proposes that the committee members will be afforded protection from civil liability. To protect the public of Queensland, the bill also proposes that the liability for legal borrowing by the board members will be extended to the committee. In accordance with other best practices, the bill also addresses the need for committee members to declare interests should they conflict with matters under consideration of the board or the committee.

As this bill also proposes that the board is recognised as a charitable institution, I feel confident that the consequences of its implementation will be the tangible increase in the level of benefactors and donors. I am certain this will occur as a result of the perception throughout the community that the normal activities of the committee such as fundraising activities will be undertaken and reported in isolation of the Art Gallery board. This isolation will ensure that the transparency of the committee activities will give potential donors confidence in the appropriate allocation of their funds, thereby ensuring a higher probability of success into the future.

There are numerous indications of the benefit derived from the foundation and the generosity of donors such as the Tim Fairfax Family Foundation. The gallery recently undertook an extensive regional outreach program, which has enabled the gallery to engage with regional and remote Queensland communities. The community engagement was significant, with almost 4,500 people attending the Kids' APT on Tour program, over 4,000 attending the 21st Century Kids tour, 54 regional locations participating in the Kids on Tour and over 11,000 school students attending the *Surrealism: The Poetry of Dreams* exhibition.

I was fortunate enough recently to have attended the opening of the *Portrait of Spain* recently and this exquisite display has been presented in a children's publication, *Portrait of Spain for Kids*. This publication exposes our children to the most significant artists represented within the Prado Museum. It is

publications such as this that are only made possible through the good works of the foundation. Copies of this publication have been distributed to 1,038 Queensland schools and 425 independent schools throughout the state.

I, like most Queenslanders, look forward to the Art Gallery's continued success and look forward to witnessing an improved harvest by the foundation committee in the seasons ahead. In closing, I would like to congratulate the Minister for Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts on the preparation of this bill. I commend the bill to the House.