




Speech by

Ian Walker

MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD

Hansard Wednesday, 12 September 2012

QUEENSLAND ART GALLERY AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr WALKER** (Mansfield—LNP) (10.27 pm): I rise to speak in support of the bill tonight. The Deputy Premier has particularly asked me to go through a thorough analysis of this bill clause by clause applying my mind to the interesting legal matters that arise on just about every paragraph of the bill. I generally take the Deputy Premier's advice, but tonight I do not feel that that is the mood of the House so suffice it to say that I have examined the bill, I have examined the committee's report and I am satisfied that the minister has clearly addressed the uncertainties within the foundation's structure.

If I am not going to talk about law, I am going to talk briefly about the arts. I am not an expert in the visual arts, although I have been helped tonight by the member for Bundamba's speech and her introduction to the concept of pastiche. I was not aware of it. I did look up the Oxford Dictionary to find the definition of pastiche, the member having introduced it to us. It is defined as 'a medley of various ingredients; a hotchpotch, a ferrago, jumble'. I do thank the honourable member for raising the concept and I will forever associate it with her speech tonight.

I am not an expert in the visual arts. In fact, the best guidance I have had was from a great sketch by Peter Cook and Dudley Moore, where they discuss what is the important thing about a painting. They come to the conclusion that it is a great painting if the eyes follow you around the room. That is about the level of my understanding. Peter Cook and Dudley Moore then had the dilemma of what happens if the people in the painting are facing away from you. They come to a conclusion, but I will not take the House to it tonight.

I will come to the minister's great achievement in giving solidity to this foundation and giving confidence to those who donate to it. I want to speak about private investment in the arts in Queensland, which I think is an important thing. I have not had experience in the visual arts. I did have the honour of being the chair of the board of the Camerata of St John's, which is a chamber orchestra. I am aware of how important it is to get the structures right if you are to get the confidence of those who want to donate to the arts in Queensland. In the Camerata we had great support from the Tim Fairfax Family Foundation, EMR Power and Trevor St Baker. Because of the set-up, they had the confidence to deliver great support to the arts community of Queensland. It is a great thing that the minister is doing. Recently, we saw a similar thing happen with AEG Ogden, through Harvey Lister and Rod Pilbean, supporting Fanfare. It is important to acknowledge the great supporters of the arts in Queensland and to realise that what the minister has done here will set up a firm foundation for the Art Gallery to continue its fundraising and to continue to encourage those great Queenslanders who support the arts in our community. I think we should salute them and tonight is a great opportunity to do so.