



Speech by


**Jo-Ann Miller**

**MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA**

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## QUEENSLAND ART GALLERY AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mrs MILLER** (Bundamba—ALP) (9.41 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Queensland Art Gallery Amendment Bill 2012. As the member for South Brisbane has said this evening, this bill reflects virtually verbatim what was contained in the Queensland Art Gallery Amendment Bill 2011, which lapsed when the previous parliament was prorogued. The basic premise of this bill is to enable the Queensland Art Gallery board to establish a foundation committee as a committee of the board to carry out the activities of the Queensland Art Gallery Foundation. One of the most important activities to be undertaken by the foundation committee members is fundraising and encouraging philanthropy from the private sector and individuals. Philanthropy is a vital component for any public art institution. Along with government funding, it enables institutions like the Queensland Art Gallery to finance new acquisitions, mount exhibitions and run programs.

In 2011, the federal government commissioned a review of philanthropy in the arts sector chaired by Harold Mitchell AC. Mr Mitchell, who was a well-credentialed businessperson with a history of involvement, presented his report in March this year. It found that throughout Australia philanthropy represented approximately 10 per cent of funding to the arts sector. In the 2009-10 financial year, it is estimated that \$223 million was contributed in private philanthropy and corporate sponsorship. This is obviously a significant portion of all arts funding.

But the review found that one of the main inhibitors to greater philanthropy and sponsorship was a lack of resources for institutions to pursue philanthropy. I am glad to see that this bill has the potential to allow the Queensland Art Gallery to marshal more resources to encourage philanthropy. By allowing more people to become members of the Queensland Art Gallery foundation committee, it means more people can turn their attention to soliciting donations. It is rare that significant donations come unsolicited. Often it takes time and effort to encourage people to donate. It also takes a lot of effort to attract corporate sponsors and they understandably want to receive recognition for their generosity. Having more people available to lobby individuals and companies will make this a lot easier.

Relationships matter when it comes to fundraising and philanthropy. I hope the changes resulting from this bill will allow the Queensland Art Gallery board to recruit enthusiastic people with pre-existing relationships with potential benefactors and sponsors. I also hope that it gives them the ability to recruit people with existing fundraising expertise to act along—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Ruthenberg): Order! Members, I can hardly hear the member speaking and she is right near me. Can you please keep your conversations to a very low murmur.

**Mrs MILLER:** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. They are so rude. I hope the changes resulting from this bill will allow the Queensland Art Gallery board to recruit enthusiastic people with pre-existing relationships with potential benefactors and sponsors. I also hope it gives them the ability to recruit people with existing fundraising expertise to act alongside people already on the board and already employed by the Queensland Art Gallery.

On this side of the House, we in the Labor Party and the Labor movement have a deep and longstanding commitment to the arts. In fact, Andrew Vickers of the CFMEU's mining and energy division

has proudly supported in my electorate the Redbank Plains State High School art awards. Art in the Labor movement has pride. For example, on Labour Day the ETU has wonderful T-shirts with great art on them and we are all proud of that. I am sure in the next Labour Day march—whenever that might be—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mrs MILLER:** Thank you for your protection, Mr Deputy Speaker. Let me tell you: you will all love the T-shirts that are going to be talking about all of you.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Bundamba, please address your comments through the chair.

**Mrs MILLER:** Yes. That will be fine. Can I just say this, Mr Deputy Speaker: you might change the date but you will never change the passion. I am also pleased to see that every member of this government does not understand anything to do with the arts sector. I am confident though that some of them may understand symbolism. It was clearly meant to be an important symbol that one of the first cuts this temporary Premier made was the scrapping of the Premier's Literary Awards. This was not a decision that the Premier made reluctantly. It was a decision that the Premier relished. He loved it—sticking the boot into writers. How low can you go. The initial acts of a new government—

**Ms BATES:** I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker.

**Mrs MILLER:** Oh, here she goes.

**Ms BATES:** It is a point of order. That means you get to sit.

**Mrs MILLER:** I know. I will, in my time.

**Ms BATES:** Mr Deputy Speaker, my point of order is that this bill is for particular purposes. It has nothing to do with the Premier's Literary Awards and I ask that you get the member for Bundamba to return to the bill.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Bundamba, the long title of the bill is Queensland Art Gallery Amendment Bill and I ask you to keep your comments within that title.

**Mrs MILLER:** It is very intriguing that this arts minister, sadly, cannot defend the Premier's Literary Awards decision. What we find on this side of the House is that the Premier obviously thinks—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Bundamba, please address your comments through the chair.

**Mrs MILLER:** Thank you for your protection, Mr Deputy Speaker. The minister over there and the Premier, who is sitting behind her in the back row—where he belongs—obviously think that arts are for the elites—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Bundamba, I have asked you several times to address your comments through the chair.

**Mrs MILLER:** The arts enrich people's lives. They give people the ability to see the world in a different light, to challenge reigning ideas and to express themselves in new and exciting ways. The Queensland Art Gallery complex is the best patronised art gallery in Australia. This shows that Queenslanders know the value of the arts—even if their government does not.

I am, however, pleased to see that the Minister for Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts is doing her very best to preserve an important artistic tradition known as the pastiche. A pastiche is a literary technique which openly imitates the work of another earlier artist. Of course, when the minister introduced this bill to the House, her entire speech was a pastiche dedicated to the former minister for the arts. Unfortunately for the minister, it is fairly rare for a pastiche to be more highly regarded than the work on which it is based. Nevertheless, I am glad to see the minister has such respect for her predecessor. The parrot has in effect parroted the words of a previous minister. I see that many people have actually suggested that this speech was, in fact, plagiarism. Of course—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Ruthenberg):** Order! Member for Bundamba, I have asked you once to please keep your comments within the long title of the bill. I am asking you again to restrict your comments to the long title of the bill.

**Mrs MILLER:** I will. The line between pastiche and plagiarism is indistinct, but I always give people the benefit of the doubt.

I am pleased to contribute to the debate on this important bill. I am also pleased to see that the policy of the previous government has been taken on board by those opposite. The changes that this bill will implement promise to substantially benefit the Queensland Art Gallery and encourage more private donations. This is good news for the people of Queensland, because more philanthropy to the Art Gallery means more programs, higher profile acquisitions and better exhibitions. Like many Queenslanders, I

remain disappointed by the Premier's and this minister's philistine approach to the arts. They all laugh at the minister because it will not save this state. It is Labor legislation that she has nicked. She nicked it. I commend the bill to the House because it is our legislation.