



Speech by


**Mark Boothman**

**MEMBER FOR ALBERT**

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## **QUEENSLAND ART GALLERY AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Albert—LNP) (10.13 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Queensland Art Gallery Amendment Bill 2012. This bill is about the creation of a new chapter for the Queensland Art Gallery. It is about extending the functions of the Queensland Art Gallery board through the acquisition of art collections and the development of a foundation committee. The bill's primary goal is to ease the financial burden by establishing a committee that will limit the restrictions on the foundation's ability to receive donations.

This bill allows the board to retain control over the management of the foundation, giving the Queensland Art Gallery suitable powers to ensure that fundraising is undertaken in league with the direction of the art gallery's agenda. In addition, these changes allow the board to establish the membership of the foundation, which will include two board members or nonmembers, if desired, and the conditions of membership. Furthermore, these changes provide for the naming and the constitution of the committee and the implementation of procedures for the committee through the delegation of powers. I am delighted to hear that this bill also allows the committee members the same safeguards as the board members through protection from civil liability.

I wish to refer to new sections 40F, 40G and 40H, which provide protections and directions to ensure transparency in the operations of the committee. These new sections allow the board to determine how the foundation committee may conduct business while ensuring that committee members disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter being considered by the foundation committee. Furthermore, new section 40H prohibits participation by a foundation committee member who has a personal interest in a matter that is before the foundation committee. This amendment will not incur any additional costs to the taxpayer and has the potential to increase the diversity of artworks through the committee's own fundraising abilities.

In these precarious economic conditions and a massive state deficit, this bill will provide the Queensland Art Gallery with the ability to fundraise and undertake wonderful programs to showcase art to all. That can only be concluded as a major bonus for the Queensland Art Gallery. I will highlight the wonderful work that the Queensland Art Gallery has undertaken into recent months. With the generous support of the Tim Fairfax Family Foundation, the Queensland Art Gallery has been able to conduct multiple regional outreach programs for regional and remote Queensland. The first program that I would like to highlight is the Portrait of Spain for Kids. This program introduces kids to truly wonderful art dating back to the 17th century—a truly classical period in European history. The program has distributed copies to 1,038 Queensland state primary schools, 425 independent primary schools, 45 regional galleries, 20 regional venues and 20 Indigenous knowledge centres.

Another fantastic program undertaken by the Queensland Art Gallery with the help of the Tim Fairfax Family Foundation is Surrealism for Kids, which was part of the *Surrealism: The Poetry of Dreams* exhibition. A record 54 regional Queensland venues took part in this tour, which featured activities such as interactive animated games inspired by surrealists. When thinking of surrealism I am reminded of Salvador Dali's famous painting titled *The Persistence of Memory*. It is a wonderful piece of artwork that depicts the heightened senses of the human imagination, which some people on the other side seem to be very good at.

**Ms Trad:** We all know about your imagination.

**Mr BOOTHMAN:** That cut me. These wonderful programs bring art to schools, art to regions and art to remote Queensland. That can be done only through generous donations from donors such as the Tim Fairfax Family Foundation. The opportunity to see art from around the world should not be just for those who live in South-East Queensland but for all Queenslanders. The Queensland Art Gallery is an exciting place, with masterpieces around the world and from local artists. By supporting this bill we are supporting the future of the Queensland Art Gallery and art for everybody. I wish to thank my fellow committee members—

**Ms Trad** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Ruthenberg): Order I am going to ask the member for South Brisbane to please stop talking across the chamber.

**Mr BOOTHMAN:** Art is a window to the past and the future. It defines who we are as a culture. I commend to this bill to the House.