



Speech by


**Michael Latter**

**MEMBER FOR WATERFORD**

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## QUEENSLAND ART GALLERY AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr LATTER** (Waterford—LNP) (10.03 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Queensland Art Gallery Amendment Bill. As we have heard, this bill seeks to streamline the relationship between the Art Gallery Board of Trustees and the Art Gallery Foundation. The foundation does tremendous work supporting the development of the state art collection, presenting major national and international exhibitions and community based public programs including regional and children's exhibition programs. They do this through encouraging donations, sponsorship, bequests, gifts and other forms of support for the gallery.

The work the foundation does to bring exhibitions to the regions and children is particularly exciting. Formalising the ability of the Queensland Art Gallery to raise funds for the procurement of works and the ability to continue to exhibit art are absolute necessities for the enrichment of our cultural maturity and diversity in the arts.

For some of us, and many of our children, the Queensland Art Gallery represents an invaluable opportunity, from time to time, to personally immerse ourselves in the fine arts. It affords an opportunity to experience in person exhibits by world renowned artists, old-world masters and even highly regarded Australian talents. This bill strengthens the Queensland Art Gallery's ability to continue to do well into the future that which it has done so well in the past.

However, not everyone lives in South-East Queensland, with the easy access to the cultural precinct at South Bank and the Art Gallery and GoMA. So it is important and only fair that we take some of the works they house to the regions, even if it is just down the freeway to Logan. The last touring exhibition to the Logan Art Gallery, *Contemporary Miniatures*, attracted large numbers of visitors at the end of last year. This collection was selected from the Queensland Art Gallery's fine holdings of miniature paintings from South Asia. By drawing people to these touring exhibitions and their associated workshops, the Logan Art Gallery is also able to showcase its own collection. It is through the work of the foundation that the people of Logan see these works displayed in their own gallery.

It is an unfortunate reality that people living a short journey from the cultural precinct in Brisbane feel that the arts are beyond their reach. There is a real perception that art is only for an elite minority. One of the important reasons for bringing touring exhibitions to Logan is to break down this perception and show that art is for everyone. Art has the amazing dual ability to celebrate the diversity and universality of human expression. In an incredibly culturally diverse community like the Waterford electorate, art can unite people because it transcends cultural difference and captures something of what it means to be uniquely human. So it is with this in mind that I strongly support the work of the foundation in its role, supporting the galleries and bringing art to the regions. When I say that I am here to commend this bill, I am supporting the streamlining of the relationship between the board of trustees, the foundation and the galleries. On that basis I commend the bill to the House.