



Speech by


**Seath Holswich**

**MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS**

Hansard Wednesday, 12 September 2012

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## QUEENSLAND ART GALLERY AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr HOLSWICH** (Pine Rivers—LNP) (10.36 pm): I rise to provide a short statement in support of the Queensland Art Gallery Amendment Bill. Not only do I rise to speak in support of the bill but I also intend to speak about the bill, because unlike the member for South Brisbane who, from her speech earlier tonight, I surmise seems to think that the arts portfolio provides a somewhat convenient opportunity to springboard herself into higher duties, I actually have a genuine interest in the arts. It is not an interest that is all about gratuitous self-promotion. I am proud to be involved in arts organisations at a grassroots level in the Pine Rivers electorate and I am pleased to speak to any piece of legislation that seeks to benefit the arts in Queensland.

This particular legislation enables the Art Gallery Board of Trustees to establish a foundation committee to continue the work of the foundation, work that greatly benefits our community. I understand that, in coming to the decision reflected in this bill, a range of options were considered but the committee option was settled on because the model does not fundamentally change the current status of the foundation, it strengthens the foundation in a technical and legislative way, and it aligns the foundation with the board's strategic directions and board membership. This approach is consistent with the National Gallery of Victoria Act 1966, which established the National Gallery of Victoria Foundation as a committee of the Council of Trustees of the National Gallery of Victoria.

I understand that the board did initially consider the formation of a company to act as corporate trustee, but came to the conclusion that this structure would place restrictions upon the foundation's ability to receive and process bequests and donations. By comparison, under the committee model the foundation would not, for tax purposes, be a separate institution from the board. Under the proposed structure, donations will be made to the board which already has deductible gift recipient status, and the deductible gift recipient and tax status of the foundation will be the same as that of the board. As a committee of the board, the foundation committee will be able to receive donations from private ancillary funds, as the restriction on a private ancillary fund donating to another like fund would not apply.

Establishing a foundation committee allows the board to retain control over the management and operations of the foundation, given the large amount of funds under management, and avoids the need to create a new government body for the foundation. Ultimately, in my opinion, the process outlined in this bill seems the most appropriate way to give the foundation solid legal underpinning, whilst limiting any restrictions on the foundation's ability to receive donations.

As I said at the beginning of my short contribution, I am a proud supporter of the arts. I am proud to be a member of a government that is significantly supporting the arts at a grassroots level, with initiatives such as the \$3 million Super Star Fund and the \$3 million Regional Arts Fund. I am proud to be on the committee of my local theatre company, the wonderful Act1 Theatre in Strathpine, and I am proud to be working with the Moreton Bay Regional Council on several local arts issues. Whilst Labor seemed to think that it had some sort of exclusive claim to the arts, this LNP government will continue to work hard to get our state back on track, so that we can continue to invest in the arts in Queensland. Labor may have first introduced this bill, but yet again it is the LNP government that is delivering. Whilst this bill may be somewhat dry in nature, it is still another small step in proving the Newman government's commitment to the arts in Queensland. I am pleased to commend the bill to the House.