




Speech By  
**Hon. John-Paul Langbroek**

**MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE**

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**TAFE QUEENSLAND BILL**

**Second Reading**

 **Hon. JH LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Minister for Education, Training and Employment) (12.55 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

I want to thank the Education and Innovation Committee for its report tabled on 16 May 2013 supporting the passage of the TAFE Queensland Bill 2013, subject to some recommendations for minor amendments. Although the committee only had a short time to examine the bill, it has prepared a comprehensive report on the bill. I note that the committee received a detailed briefing from the Department of Education, Training and Employment, considered written submissions from stakeholders and invited selected stakeholders to a hearing before preparing its report.

I am pleased to note that the committee was supportive of the bill and recommended that it be passed. The committee also made a number of recommendations for amendments to the bill. Recommendation 2 was that the headings of part 4 and clause 50 of the bill be amended to ensure clarity and reduce the likelihood of misinterpretation. The government does not support this recommendation. The government considers that the headings of part 4 and clause 50 are sufficiently clear and would not allow for regulations to be progressed that are unrelated to the restructure of TAFE. Part 4 is titled 'Restructuring TAFE' and all of the clauses in part 4 relate to actions necessary to restructure TAFE. Clause 50 is titled 'Transfer of assets, liabilities etc. to a relevant TAFE entity' as it provides for the transfer of various matters between TAFE entities. The government considers that the meaning of these provisions is clear and the current headings are appropriate.

Recommendation 3 was that clause 69(b) be amended to remove the words 'as soon as possible' and replace them with 'as soon as practicable'. The government does not support this recommendation. I have been advised that, from a legislative drafting perspective, the words 'as soon as possible' indicate more urgency than 'as soon as practicable'. It is the government's intention that the first operational plan for TAFE Queensland be developed as soon as possible. Recommendation 4 was that clause 12 be amended to ensure that the minister's nominee is subject to the qualification requirements in clause 14 and is treated as a member for all purposes. The government does not support this recommendation. With respect to the committee, the nominee is a member for all purposes in the bill and the government considers that this is sufficiently clear from the words of the bill. The nominee is not required to meet the qualification and experience requirements in clause 14 as the nominee represents the minister on the board. The committee also raised a number of points for clarification in its report. Responses to these matters are contained in the government's response to the committee's report, which I now table.

*Tabled paper.* Education and Innovation Committee: Report No. 15—TAFE Queensland Bill 2013, government response [2684].

This bill is an important part of the government's broader agenda for reform of the VET sector. Establishing TAFE Queensland will position our public provider to provide training that meets the needs of students and industry and contributes to better employment outcomes for Queenslanders. In addition, the new TAFE Queensland will ensure that the government gets value for money from its investment in vocational education and training. I commend this bill to the House.