




Speech By  
**Hon. John-Paul Langbroek**  
**MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE**

---

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Central Queensland University and Central Queensland Institute of TAFE, Merger

 **Hon. JH LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Minister for Education, Training and Employment) (2.15 pm): Upon coming to government, the Premier wrote in my charter letter that one of my key priorities was to ‘resolve the proposed merger of Central Queensland University and Central Queensland Institute of TAFE’. It is my great pleasure to inform the House, particularly those members from Central Queensland, that this morning Scott Bowman, the vice-chancellor of Central Queensland University, and I signed off on the merger in Rockhampton. This sign-off has been a long time coming—too long, in fact.

After the election of the Newman government, we moved swiftly to have the documentation ready and put Queensland in a position to sign. Indeed, last October—almost a year ago—I travelled to Mackay, Rockhampton and Gladstone with the assistant minister, the honourable member for Mount Coot-tha, to talk to TAFE staff about the merger. Sadly, the outgoing federal government played politics with this issue. I have had to deal with four federal training ministers in the last nine months: Chris Evans, Chris Bowen, Craig Emerson and, finally, Brendan O’Connor. Each played ducks and drakes as they desperately tried to hold on to the safe Labor seat of Capricornia, where Michelle Landry is still fighting tooth and nail to win the seat for the LNP.

Despite all of the hurdles placed in front of us, the commitment today will form Queensland’s first dual sector institute. This model will change the offerings available, making the pathway between trade training and university more seamless. This is crucial in a region that needs a range of technical and theoretical skills to tackle the challenges of a burgeoning resources sector.

The merger is a commitment by the state government of \$116 million in assets and approximately \$40 million in expected revenue per year. I would like to take this opportunity to recognise the advocacy of the Central Queensland business community and organisations like Capricorn Enterprise who have advocated strongly and intelligently for this proposal. The merged entity is expected to be up and running by 1 July next year. I know members will take the opportunity, when enabling legislation is introduced, to have their say on the benefits of this merger to their electorates.