



Speech By
Hon. John-Paul Langbroek

MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

Record of Proceedings, 15 October 2013

**VOCATIONAL EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT (SKILLS
QUEENSLAND) AND ANOTHER ACT AMENDMENT BILL**

Second Reading

Resumed from 6 August (see p. 2295).



Hon. JH LANGBROEK (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Minister for Education, Training and Employment) (3.53 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

I would like to thank the Education and Innovation Committee for its report, tabled 4 November 2013, regarding the Vocational Education, Training and Employment (Skills Queensland) and Another Act Amendment Bill 2013. I am pleased to note that the committee supports the bill and recommends that it be passed. The committee also made two further recommendations to which I will now respond.

The committee recommended that the government ensure that the Ministerial Industry Commission establishes strong and effective mechanisms to ensure consultation and communication with relevant stakeholders, including specific industry groups and training providers. I want to assure all members that the Newman government is committed to reforming and modernising the VET sector in Queensland and ensuring that Queenslanders can access first-class training that leads to real employment outcomes.

In June this year we released Great Skills, Real Opportunities, the Queensland government's reform action plan for further education and training. This action plan outlines the government's five-year plan for reform of the VET sector to support Queenslanders in accessing and completing the training that they need to get a job and contribute to the state's economy and their own prosperity. A key action under the VET action plan is for the government to work in partnership with industry and employers to identify priority skills needs for the economy and to match training to employment.

As members know, to support this action the government is establishing the Ministerial Industry Commission to advise me as minister on Queensland's skilling priorities and industry needs and priorities for funding qualifications that will align with job opportunities. The commission will be chaired by the Assistant Minister for Technical and Further and Education, Saxon Rice, and comprise industry leaders with expertise in labour market economics, human resource management and marketing and communications in informing the work of the commission and its advice to the minister. The commission will create a direct relationship and a true partnership between government, industry and employers. This partnership will provide industry and employers with a genuine voice on how public training investment is directed.

Small, medium and large enterprises will be able to provide advice to the commission through regional information forums which will feed into an annual skills priority report to me as minister. Once

established, the commission will determine other mechanisms for streamlined industry engagement, including consultation with specific industry groups and training providers to inform me about the state's skilling priorities.

With the establishment of the commission the government proposes to abolish Skills Queensland, returning its remaining functions—primarily the regulation of apprenticeships and traineeships—back to the department. In this regard the committee also recommended that I amend page 2 of the explanatory notes for the bill to clarify that the functions being assumed by the director-general of the department include functions around restrictive callings. While it is clear in the bill and the explanatory notes that the director-general of the department will assume functions relating to restricted callings, I am pleased to table an erratum to the explanatory notes to correct this minor omission on page 2.

Tabled paper: Vocational Education, Training and Employment (Skills Queensland) and Another Act Amendment Bill 2013, erratum to explanatory notes [\[3745\]](#).

I thank the committee for its valuable contribution to this bill and table the government's response.

Tabled paper: Education and Innovation Committee: Report No. 23—Vocational Education, Training and Employment (Skills Queensland) and Another Act Amendment Bill 2013, government response [\[3744\]](#).

The response addresses a number of points of clarification sought by the committee in relation to the bill. I commend the bill to the House.