




Speech By

Bruce Saunders

MEMBER FOR MARYBOROUGH

Record of Proceedings, 28 October 2015

JOBS QUEENSLAND BILL

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (5.15 pm): I rise to support the bill and also to thank the chair, the deputy chair and the committee members and also the committee secretariat for the hard work that went into preparing this bill and getting it right. Jobs Now, Jobs for the Future—I know I am not alone when I say that the people of the Maryborough electorate need to know there is a future. Each and every one of us in this House knows that the future of this state, especially my electorate, relies on the worker. I have said it before that the very backbone of our communities is the worker. Whether it is a small business or a welder at Downer putting the trains together or doing maintenance on the trains, they are the people who make up my electorate. It is these people who need to know that there is a future for them and their colleagues and that we as a government are committed to ensuring skills demand is met and long-term workforce planning is committed to.

With the creation of Jobs Queensland, we will see an independent body take the reins on just that, the future of our employment and job stability in Queensland by long-term workforce planning and providing advice to government on skill needs in local communities and regions. This will be done by the best people to give advice and consult with the communities, the people who are most skilled and knowledgeable: industry leaders, unions, employer representatives and working Queenslanders. This will be done through consultation and engagement with the community, rural and regional areas, and associations and peak bodies. It will give an independent voice back to the industry on skills demand and long-term workforce planning. The advice and reports provided by Jobs Queensland will be a key input to help inform priorities for state investment in skills, training and workforce planning and will inform the government of strategies and programs for Queensland.

Also for transparency, clause 21 of the bill requires Jobs Queensland to complete an annual report outlining how it has discharged its functions during the financial year and the activities it has undertaken. A copy of this report must be tabled in parliament within 14 days of it being received.

Under the previous government, I saw the VET sector in my electorate torn to shreds, narrowing the future hopes of jobseekers and constituents needing to upskill to meet industry needs. Jobs Queensland will support our VET sector and ensure the skills are better aligned to future jobs needs with a focus on making the Queensland VET sector the strongest and most productive in Australia.

Jobs Now, Jobs for the Future—the creation of jobs will help take Queenslanders forward with better planning and an understanding of emerging and innovative industries that will continue to grow and build the workforce of Queensland. After three years of job losses and a stagnant economy in my electorate under the previous government, this is the beginning of a future for Queensland. I commend this bill to the House.