




Speech By
Joan Pease

MEMBER FOR LYTTON

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QUEENSLAND TRAINING ASSETS MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY REPEAL BILL

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (10.03 pm): I rise today to speak in support of the Queensland Training Assets Management Authority Repeal Bill 2015. I am very happy to support this bill because Rescuing TAFE is close to my heart, from both a personal and a professional perspective. I am an avid supporter of TAFE and vocational education and training, and I truly value these places of learning and education. As a school leaver, I attended the Kangaroo Point technical college where I acquired the foundation skills which have brought me to this place today, and I developed a love of the sector. I was also a proud adult educator, providing training in both the community and the TAFE sector. My sister was a TAFE teacher for over 20 years, and she was a victim of the recent culling of TAFE teachers. During her teaching, she touched the lives of many students, making a real difference to people's lives. Like so many other dedicated professional TAFE teachers, she shared her knowledge and skills with her students. TAFE and TAFE teachers provide opportunities for students to learn and develop their skills which enables them to enter the workforce.

In my electorate, we have a large number of proud TAFE graduates and TAFE teachers. I spoke during the campaign to many TAFE teachers and graduates, and the teachers spoke with passion of their years of teaching in this sector and with even more passion about their students—students they had shared their skills and experience with, students who benefited from the sharing of their knowledge.

In particular, I spoke to Alan, a local TAFE teacher. He spoke to me about his frustration at the degradation and apparent running down of TAFE. He spoke of his disappointment and sadness that his work and the work of his colleagues, and TAFE itself, were being devalued. Alan spoke of the tools and the resources that he and his colleagues had accumulated over the years to share their trade and skills with their students. Alan told me that the very tools and resources these dedicated professionals had accumulated for their students' use and training were no longer accessible to them as their classrooms had been allocated and they were therefore no longer able to access the resources where they had been stored.

The Queensland Training Assets Management Authority Repeal Bill 2015 will restore TAFE as the premier public training provider of vocational education and training in Queensland, ensuring that these dedicated TAFE teachers can continue to share their knowledge and skills and help to grow and skill our Queensland workforce, ensuring that TAFE has priority access to training assets. Training assets must be utilised in ways that benefit local communities. It is important that TAFE Queensland has priority access to these state owned assets to ensure that Queenslanders have access to a premier public training provider of vocational education and training. That is what this government is about—creating jobs and providing access to education and training to develop a skilled and work-ready workforce. Ensuring TAFE Queensland has priority access to the facilities it needs provides certainty to TAFE to allow planning of training delivery across the state.

TAFE is an important member of many communities across the state, providing training to some of the most disadvantaged Queenslanders and also training in regional and remote parts of Queensland. Queenslanders need a strong public training provider. TAFE Queensland is vital. TAFE Queensland helps people to acquire the skills and training they need to get a job. TAFE Queensland provides opportunities for learners of all ages, all abilities and all backgrounds to learn new skills in an environment which is inclusive and supportive. That is why the Palaszczuk government has made a commitment of \$34.5 million to rescue TAFE. Further, the Palaszczuk government made an election commitment to rescue TAFE and to repeal the QTAMA Act and return control of Queensland training assets to its rightful place—the Department of Education and Training. This will ensure that TAFE Queensland has priority access to state owned training assets. This department manages all public education assets and previously managed all training assets and it is best placed to ensure that all Queenslanders have access to TAFE. I commend the Queensland Training Assets Management Authority Repeal Bill 2015 to the House.