




Speech By
Joan Pease

MEMBER FOR LYTTON

Record of Proceedings, 28 October 2015

JOBS QUEENSLAND BILL

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (4.58 pm): I rise today to speak in support of the Jobs Queensland Bill 2015 because that is what we are here debating this afternoon. I am proud to be part of the Palaszczuk government, a government that is committed to growing the economy and building new and innovative industries in Queensland. To do that, Queensland needs a highly skilled, productive and well-trained workforce to meet the workforce needs of the future and, importantly, the workforce needs of industry.

This bill, as part of the Working Queensland framework, will establish an independent statutory entity to provide strategic industry led device. Jobs Queensland will provide advice on skills needs for particular regional or industry sectors, future workforce development and planning, and the apprenticeship and traineeship system in Queensland. It will also carry out and promote research and market intelligence and promote public awareness of its statutory functions. Jobs Queensland, importantly, reinstates an independent voice for industry to provide government advice on skills needs of the future. It will be responsive and support productivity and skill development through industry skill demand. With a focus on its strategic advisory role, Jobs Queensland will engage with industry, identify demand for skilled work across the economy and consider the strategic implications for skills development in Queensland.

Jobs Queensland will comprise an independent board with a mix of industry leaders, employer representatives, union representatives and members with expert or specialist skills in such areas as workforce planning, economics and research skills. Jobs Queensland must consult with representatives from the community, including rural and regional areas, and consult with representatives from a broad range of industries.

Jobs Queensland will provide meaningful advice and will support effective workforce planning, and the Department of Education and Training will take the responsibility for the training related workforce development strategies identified through the planning process. This will ensure that our government is aware of industry priorities and, in turn, the investment requirements in the vocational education and training sector. This will underpin skills development programs, ensuring that the investments are effective and appropriate in supporting employment and industry and sustainable growth in Queensland, with a focus on making the Queensland VET sector the strongest and most productive in Australia. Small, medium and large entities and industries from across Queensland can contribute towards advising on skill and workforce planning matters, and there will be broad stakeholder consultation to ensure full representation.

The committee called for and received submissions from various stakeholder groups, and I would like to thank those who made submissions and those who attended the public hearings. These submissions—which the committee received from industry groups, peak policy bodies and unions—supported and acknowledged the importance of the creation of an independent statutory entity to provide strategic industry led advice to government in relation to skill demand and long-term workforce

planning. These expert organisations understand the importance of strategic planning and acknowledge the importance of developing an appropriately skilled workforce, and I again thank them for their submissions and support of the Jobs Queensland Bill.

I would like to thank my fellow committee members for their collaborative and consultative deliberations on the Jobs Queensland Bill, in particular the committee chair, the member for Townsville. I thank and acknowledge the committee secretariat, who provided detailed and thorough support. Jobs Queensland will ensure that training is accessible to trainees where jobs are, that trainees will get the most out of their training and that industry will have access to an appropriately highly trained, responsive and productive workforce that will drive Queensland's economic growth and jobs. I commend the Jobs Queensland Bill to the House.