




Speech By  
**Shane King**

**MEMBER FOR KALLANGUR**

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Record of Proceedings, 15 July 2015

**QUEENSLAND TRAINING ASSETS MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY REPEAL BILL**

 **Mr KING** (Kallangur—ALP) (9.52 pm): I rise to support the Queensland Training Assets Management Authority Repeal Bill presented by the honourable Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills. This bill will honour our election commitment to rescue our TAFE system by repealing the Queensland Training Assets Management Authority Act—or QTAMA—transferring all of QTAMA’s assets to the Department of Education and Training, allowing savings by dissolving the QTAMA board and removing the CEO and officer positions.

Trade and vocational training is very dear to me, my previous work colleagues and every worker in Queensland who owes their livelihood to training provided in one of our vocational institutions. When I finished school in year 12—a long time ago—I, like so many of my schoolmates, had no clear idea what I wanted to do with my career. I had not studied the right subjects for a TE score so university was not an immediate option. I turned to TAFE and its prevocational training. During the course of that training where I and fellow students got a taste of all trades in both construction and engineering fields, I decided the electrical trade was the one for me and was easily able to secure an apprenticeship upon the completion of the course. The ease of finding an apprenticeship was, in my mind, completely due to the high quality of training provided by TAFE. Restoring the heart of our TAFE system is not just necessary but vital to our state.

My son followed in my footsteps with school based trade training at our local TAFE and was also easily able to secure an apprenticeship, although not in the high-voltage industry like I did. When I heard that the previous government had introduced QTAMA to lease TAFE premises and equipment, I was disgusted. I knew that, like its plans for the electricity supply industry, this was nothing more than an attempt to flog off our training assets to the highest bidder and once they were gone they would be gone forever. The LNP’s legislation was introduced with little consideration of the long-term survival of the TAFE system and no foresight for what we will need in the way of vocational education and training in the future.

As I campaigned in my area, I spoke to TAFE teachers and students who were very concerned about how the LNP cut subsidies, brought about massive increases in fees and the campuses were not getting the support they needed. Some of the horror stories I heard in regard to the raising of fees were a film and TV course rose from \$3,000 a year to more than \$20,000. In Townsville, a certificate III in wall and floor tiling at Barrier Reef TAFE leapt from \$239 to \$2,400. In one of the cruellest blows to the most vulnerable, a literacy and numeracy course for the disabled at Metropolitan South Institute of TAFE in Brisbane had the subsidy per student cut from \$9,000 to \$2,000. So a course that cost \$36 per unit will rise to \$500 per unit, and it does not end there. The units have to be taken in clusters of three so the bill would have been \$1,500 and \$3,000 if you studied full time.

The previous government had an obsession with privatisation, and I for one have always fought against the selling of our assets by any government. Our industries rely upon well-trained workers, and the ability to deliver them should never be reliant on who can do it the cheapest and make the most

money out of it. We owe our industry the highest quality workers trained in trade skills and workplace health and safety, and training them can never be an exercise in fly-by-night training. I am proud to be part of a government that will restore TAFE Queensland, as we recognise we need a robust public training provider of vocational education so that in the future we can continue to affordably provide Queenslanders with the skills and knowledge they require to get jobs. Restoring TAFE will create new full-time positions, subsidise student support services, provide foundation skills courses for disadvantaged learners, give second chance training opportunities for older people who may be out of work, help with regional support programs and increase the courses available under vocational education and training in schools. I commend the bill to the House.