




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 21 May 2015

QUEENSLAND TRAINING ASSETS MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY REPEAL BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (11.33 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Further Education and Training Act 2014 by inserting provisions that repeal the Queensland Training Assets Management Authority Act 2014 and provide for transitional matters. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Queensland Training Assets Management Authority Repeal Bill 2015 [\[447\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Training Assets Management Authority Repeal Bill 2015, explanatory notes [\[448\]](#).

The Palaszczuk government was elected on a commitment to jobs. We are focused on reducing Queensland's unemployment rate, creating jobs and training individuals to meet industry demand today and into the future. Many of the government's election commitments highlight the crucial role of the vocational education and training sector in building the Queensland economy by delivering well-trained workers to address the needs of industry. One significant commitment made by this government is our plan to regain TAFE Queensland's reputation as the premier public training provider of VET in Queensland. Unlike those opposite, we believe that the public provider plays a vital role in the delivery of VET in Queensland, and we need to ensure that it is able to deliver quality training now and into the future.

This government has committed \$34 million over the next three years through our Rescuing TAFE policy to regain TAFE Queensland's reputation as the premier provider of VET in this state as well as internationally. Our Rescuing TAFE package includes many significant commitments over the next three years including creating 100 new full-time equivalent teaching and support staff positions; investing \$5 million to establish a fully independent training ombudsman; providing \$4 million for training in emerging innovative industries as designated by Jobs Queensland; and the repeal of the QTAMA Act 2014.

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Grace): Order! There is too much audible conversation in the House, and I am struggling to hear the Attorney-General.

Mrs D'ATH: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. Today I table the Queensland Training Assets Management Authority Repeal Bill 2015. This bill is the first step in our Rescuing TAFE commitment. QTAMA was created by those opposite to enable the sell-off of Queensland's training assets to the highest bidder and removing access of TAFE to its own premises, its own equipment and leasing it out directly to the competitors of TAFE. This legislation was introduced with no consideration by the former government for the long-term survival of TAFE Queensland and no thought to the Queenslanders who rely on TAFE for training or the businesses who benefit from a well-trained workforce. Once these assets are sold, once there are long-term leases in place, there is no getting them back. This means that any future growth by TAFE Queensland would be restricted by

a lack of facilities. Those opposite claim they are committed to the survival of the public provider in Queensland, yet they created QTAMA as a body to flog off our public training assets and give private registered training organisations the inside running. We opposed this act when it was introduced last year, and we made it very clear that we would repeal it as soon as the opportunity arose.

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I was not just wasting my breath the last time. There is too much audible conversation in the House. I am struggling to hear the Attorney-General. If you want a conversation, please take it outside.

Mrs D'ATH: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. As I travelled around the state last year, I, like many members on this side of the House—and I would find it surprising if those on the other side did not hear the same issues being raised by their communities—heard concerns about the attack on TAFE teachers, the running down of our campuses, the cutting of subsidies, the increasing of fees and the systematic attack on our TAFE system in this state. The member for Everton appeared surprised that we were preparing to repeal this legislation. It is another example of why they sit on the opposite side of the chamber. The arrogance they showed in government continues to exist today. The lack of listening to the community continues.

Did the member for Everton or any other members of the LNP even bother to read the Labor government's election commitments in relation to education and training? Did the former minister for public works bother to read the committee report or listen to the concerns of stakeholders? In that same speech the member indicated there would be a significant cost to taxpayers if the assets were to be transferred back to the Department of Education and Training, but the reality is quite to the contrary. Repealing this legislation will save the government over \$430,000 per year in wages paid to the board whose sole purpose was to sell off public training assets. The QTAMA board members were very well paid.

The former government had an agenda to sell our training assets, privatise VET delivery in Queensland and force TAFE Queensland out of the training market. The Palaszczuk government has a very different agenda. We want TAFE Queensland to continue to deliver quality vocational education and training far into the future, because Queenslanders rightly believe that we need a strong public training provider of VET. It benefits individuals by helping them attain the skills and training they need to get work. It supports families, strengthens communities and is vital to give the productive and skilled workforce it needs to grow and prosper into the future. We will enable this through our Rescuing TAFE package, of which the repealing of the QTAMA Act is just the first step. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (11.40 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

Question put—That the bill be now read a first time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Grace): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee.

Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date

Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (11.40 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That under the provisions of standing order 136 the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee report to the House on the Queensland Training Assets Management Authority Repeal Bill by 7 July 2015.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.