




Speech By
Bruce Saunders

MEMBER FOR MARYBOROUGH

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UNIVERSITY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (3.12 pm): I rise as a member of the Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee to make a contribution to the debate on the University Legislation Amendment Bill 2017. I would like to thank the members of the committee, the chair and the deputy chair. It was very interesting to be on the committee and hear all of the participants and stakeholders who were involved with the legislation. During the public hearing I made the comment that I thought maybe universities were becoming like old boys' clubs. I was a bit concerned about the remuneration of some people at universities and the gender imbalance, but other than that this is a good bill for the House. It will make the running of universities throughout Queensland much better.

The University of the Sunshine Coast has done a marvellous job of expanding the campus in Hervey Bay, which covers the Fraser Coast. The USC is really going gangbusters and they are introducing new courses to the Fraser Coast that were not previously available. This keeps young people on the Fraser Coast so they do not have to travel away to attend university. It keeps them at home so they can get part-time work and study. It is great that the USC is partnering with one of the great high schools where TJ Ryan taught: Maryborough State High School. The high school will work in partnership with the university so that young people can start their pathway to university through Maryborough State High School. I congratulate the principal, Simon Done, on working with the USC to make sure this comes to fruition so that we can lift the education and living standards of the residents of the Fraser Coast, particularly Maryborough, because an education enables people to go out and get better paying jobs. One thing that I love about universities is that degrees are transportable. You can work all around the world with a university degree. I commend the bill to the House.