



Speech By  
**Julianne Gilbert**


**MEMBER FOR MACKAY**

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**PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

**Mackay, Women on Boards Forum**

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (2.43 pm): Get on board and create change! The Premier's Women on Boards event was the catalyst for over 30 women in Mackay to meet for lunch at Split Spaces, Mackay's innovation hub, to discuss the merit and the necessity to have more women represented on government boards. We were able to live stream into the Premier's Women on Boards event. I want to thank Karla Steen, a board member of the Mackay HHS, for assisting in getting the event launched in Mackay and leading roles played on the day with the valuable and rich conversation by Jade McAuley, Adrienne Rourke, Kylie Porter and Tegan Philpott. The women attending the lunch crossed all political divides and one thing that united us was our belief that business outcomes are stronger when a diverse range of views and a gender balance is achieved.

The women in my region are intelligent and well educated and already have a proven record as leaders in their chosen fields. The women attending were from education, law, finance, local government, medicine, media, mining and small business. Some of the women have already won prestigious awards in their field of business and expertise. Some participants are already on state boards and committees and others are on private boards. We all believe that living and working in regional and rural Queensland should not be a barrier for anyone wanting to apply for a board position. It should be a bonus given the fact that women are underrepresented in the following sectors: natural resources, particularly water and drainage; building and construction; electrical; manufacturing; agriculture; and transport. All sectors relate to rural and regional Queensland.

As of this August there were more than 300 Queensland government bodies with a range of responsibilities and activities. These included advisory boards supporting and influencing government policy and a range of activities; regulatory and investigative boards for licensing and accreditation; governing boards overseeing multimillion dollar enterprises and industries; and enterprise boards such as government owned corporations delivering services like energy, rail, water and ports.

Last term the Palaszczuk government set the bold and ambitious target of achieving gender equity on government boards by 2020. The Palaszczuk government has set a standard for others, with a female Premier and Deputy Premier and a cabinet that includes 50 per cent women. The representation of women on government boards now sits at 46 per cent, which is up from 37 per cent in January 2016.