




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON

Record of Proceedings, 30 March 2023

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (3.44 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Education, Employment and Training Committee's report No. 26 of the 57th Parliament. Our committee was tasked with looking at the upgrade of the Mount Gravatt TAFE and the costs involved in delivering the project. In May 2022, the committee visited the TAFE campus. Mount Gravatt TAFE offers a wide range of courses in various fields including business, fashion, hospitality, health, beauty and horticulture, to name just a few. The TAFE is now well equipped with modern facilities including training kitchens, hairdressing and, of course, the new Fashion Centre of Excellence. The TAFE has a strong reputation for providing quality vocational education and training, with a focus on practical skills and hands-on learning. The courses are designed to prepare students for the workforce and may include work experience or industry placements to give students real-world experience. In addition to vocational courses, the Mount Gravatt TAFE also offers a range of support services to help students succeed in their studies. The campus is in a convenient location, with easy access to public transport and nearby amenities.

We looked at three key components: firstly, the construction of the new Fashion Centre of Excellence; secondly, the refurbishment of A block including the refit of the admin areas to facilitate the relocation of TAFE Queensland's corporate team from the Brisbane CBD to Mount Gravatt; and, thirdly, the refurbishment of J block to provide tenants, including social enterprises, with safe and fit-for-purpose spaces.

The total approved funding for the upgrade project was \$23.37 million. However, through cost-saving measures, the final budget was reduced to \$19.78 million. I was impressed by the very high standard of the upgrades. Students I spoke to were also extremely impressed with the facilities, including the furniture and fittings. I must say that I was a bit envious of the Mount Gravatt TAFE campus and would like to see something similar in Rockhampton.

The students in the Fashion Centre of Excellence showed us some of the outfits they were working on. It was interesting. The clothing they had designed was the art of creating clothing, fashion accessories and textile designs. It involved designing and creating new and innovative styles of clothing incorporating different elements such as colour, texture and pattern to produce the desired effect. They used various techniques including sketching, printmaking and sewing. They also created clothing accessories. One student showed us a handbag that she had designed. When you unclipped it, it had a light inside so you could see the contents. In the horticultural area they had a great plant nursery where they were selling directly to the public.

Overall, the committee was impressed and made only one recommendation—that the Legislative Assembly note the contents of this report. I would like to thank the other members of the committee, particularly our chair, the member for Redlands, Kim Richards. I thank the department for their briefings and the secretariat staff for their support. I commend the report to the House.