



Speech By  
**James Lister**


**MEMBER FOR SOUTHERN DOWNS**

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Record of Proceedings, 30 March 2023

**EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING COMMITTEE**

**Report, Motion to Take Note**

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (3.48 pm): I, too, want to contribute to the debate of the report that my committee did on the Mount Gravatt TAFE upgrade. I do not mind doing this. I think we have a good committee. I feel that I get along very well with the other members of our committee: the chair, the member for Redlands, who I see over there; the member for Rockhampton; the member for Stafford; the member for Theodore, who is gesticulating that he urgently needed me to acknowledge him—he is a terrific bloke; and the member for Hinchinbrook. It was a very interesting visit.

One of the great things about this committee system is that backbench MPs get to see government in all its forms and all of the different departments—how it works and the internal operations of the departments that deliver services to Queensland. This experience was no exception. I quite enjoyed going. I note that the member for Redlands as the chair said some things about the project and the visit, and I would agree with those things. It was a good project; it has delivered some great facilities.

**Ms Richards:** The fashion centre.

**Mr LISTER:** I take that interjection from the member for Redlands. The Fashion Centre of Excellence was very interesting. I am not exactly a fashion aficionado but I went from being not much of one to perhaps a little bit more of one, which is no small thing.

**Ms Richards** interjected.

**Mr LISTER:** I take that interjection from the member for Redlands. It was also interesting to see the upgrades generally. The administration block upgrade enabled the relocation of TAFE's headquarters to the Mount Gravatt campus which provides economies of scale. The refurbishments to J block will enable social enterprises to work from TAFE which is a very healthy thing because that provides potential inspiration and pathways for the students at TAFE to take their training and their qualifications out into the real world. I also enjoyed seeing the production facilities for training the directors and producers and so forth of tomorrow. It was great to see them at work learning their trade. Again, that was something that I have never been exposed to and I enjoyed seeing it.

It is an impressive facility and I want to thank the staff of TAFE Queensland for their engagement with us and for proudly showing us the facilities and making their time available to us. I noticed that the member for Redlands also mentioned the big three-dimensional screen in the sense that it pokes out in all different directions. It was quite amazing. I would say to anybody who is entering that building and passing underneath it to go into the Fashion Centre of Excellence because it is doing something special.

**Mr Boothman:** You could watch the footy on it.

**Mr LISTER:** Yes, you could watch the footy; I take that interjection from the member for Theodore and, yes, I would probably find that quite interesting. One thing I would say is that I would have liked to have seen more students there. Perhaps it was not a busy day or it was a certain time of the year or whatever, but the facilities looked terrific and deserved to have as many students availing themselves of that training as possible.

One general observation I would also make is that TAFE exists in a particularly competitive marketplace and there is more that it could do in engaging with perhaps school leavers or other places where it is likely to come across people who are in want or in need of vocational training. That would help it fill some of the spaces and I would encourage TAFE to always be conscious of the needs of industry and the needs of small businesses in particular.

Just to give an example of some holes in the market that perhaps it could explore, I was talking to the member for Theodore earlier and he was saying that in his electorate there are very big boat-building operations but no-one can find upholsterers. That is a trade which seems to have receded into the darkness of history, but we need them. I have been speaking to people involved in the mining industry in my electorate and they were saying that geology assistants and surveyor assistants are very hard to find, so I wonder whether there are opportunities there for TAFE Queensland to embark on that sort of thing.

I commend the report to the House. It was a good facility. I am satisfied that the project was delivered within budget and achieved value for money for the taxpayer. I also want to thank the committee secretariat, led by Rob Hansen, for the work that it did to make that visit possible. Our committee has travelled a lot. I know the member for Redlands would agree that we have done a lot of travel together and there is a lot of work involved in preparing that travel by the secretariat, so I thank it for that and for the work that it will be doing in the future for the travel we have coming up.