




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR THEODORE

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EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (2.37 pm): I, too, rise to make a short contribution to the inquiry into the Cairns TAFE upgrade project. As my fellow committee members have alluded to, it was very interesting to participate in this committee inquiry and travel to Cairns to see what was done and how the \$18.5 million was spent. I refer to the comments of the member for Southern Downs. The shipmaster course was very interesting. I have never seen a simulator like it. Individuals from the Pacific nations come to Cairns—which is very important for Cairns and actually helps with tourism—seeking education. Fascinatingly, the teachers could give individuals participating in the course technical issues to deal with. For instance, I remember that the software simulated wind pulling across the Cairns harbour. The motors on the ship stopped working and therefore the pilot had to control the ship as it was coming in. Having these issues pop up forced the students to think very quickly to ensure the boat did not leave the channel it was supposed to be traversing. It was fascinating seeing that and talking to the TAFE teachers about how they run the software and the certificate process.

It is very important that we ensure the projects and the courses at TAFE are value for money. Something I am very passionate about in my neck of the woods is ensuring our TAFE courses are suitable for local industries. For instance, just outside my electorate is the Coomera marine precinct—which is one of the main shipbuilding areas in Queensland. Riviera and other different boat manufacturers are based there. One thing I have always been passionate about—and I know my fellow committee members would have heard this many times—is upholstery courses in marine precincts. Marine upholstery is a bit different from automotive upholstery because they use different types of materials. We need to invest in that in the Coomera marine precinct because it is very important going forward to ensure the next generation of upholsterers have the necessary skills to work in the marine industry. The Cairns precinct services the Cape York area and Thursday Island. Therefore, it is very important that there is ample accommodation freely available for students going to Cairns for their TAFE education.

I take the member for Redlands' comments. It was such a delight, especially for the member for Redlands and a couple of others, to see the facility where they run the hairdressing course. It was an amazing facility. It is probably one of the neatest hairdressing facilities I have ever seen. It is a phenomenal facility. Those students certainly have facilities that are second to none. It was money well spent in that respect. As someone who has frazzled hair half the time, it was something that does not really interest me too much.

It is very important that they have certain courses and that the courses are utilised by the students. There were some concerns from submitters and the people who came to talk to us to ensure we get the best bang for buck when it comes to TAFE and the courses that are provided.