

# EDUCATION, TOURISM AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

## REPORT No. 5 on the

### JOBS QUEENSLAND BILL 2015

#### QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

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#### INTRODUCTION

On 16 September 2015, the Jobs Queensland Bill 2015 (the Bill) was introduced into Parliament.

The Bill was subsequently referred to the Education, Tourism and Small Business Committee (the Committee) with a report back of 20 October 2015.

On 20 October 2015, the Committee tabled its report (No. 5) in relation to the Bill.

The Queensland Government response to the recommendations made by the Committee is provided below.

#### RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS

##### **Recommendation 1**

The Committee recommends that the Jobs Queensland Bill 2015 be passed.

##### *Government response*

The Government thanks the Committee for its consideration of the Bill and notes the Committee's recommendation that the Bill be passed.

##### **Recommendation 2**

The Committee recommends that the Bill be amended to require that at least one member of Jobs Queensland is a person with direct experience in the education, training or employment sectors.

##### *Government response*

The Government supports this recommendation.

It is noted that Part 2, Division 2 of the Bill provides for the membership of Jobs Queensland, including a membership of between 7 and 12 members, appointed by the Governor in Council. In particular, clause 10 provides for the composition of members. Members must include an equal number of employer and employee representatives, a mix of industry leaders and members with expert and specialist skills to meet the functions of Jobs Queensland.

The Government notes that the Committee's recommendation is consistent with the overall policy intent to provide a broad mix of membership relevant to the functions of Jobs Queensland. The Bill at clause 10(4)(b) allows for a member to be appointed with direct experience in the education, training or employment sectors but does not mandate this. The Government will amend the Bill to require at least one member to have skills or experience in the education, training or employment sectors.

### **Recommendation 3**

The Committee recommends that clause 10 of the Jobs Queensland Bill 2015 be amended to require the Minister, in recommending persons for appointment to Jobs Queensland, to have regard to including persons of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent and people from culturally and linguistically diverse communities and from regional areas who have experience or knowledge relevant to Jobs Queensland's functions.

#### ***Government response***

The Government supports this recommendation.

The Government will amend the Bill in line with the Committee's recommendation. This amendment will encourage diversity in membership to ensure members represent a wide range of backgrounds and have a broad knowledge and skills base to support the work of Jobs Queensland.

This amendment is consistent with the Government's policy to have broad representation on Jobs Queensland, including a balanced gender representation, which is provided for in clause 10(5) of the Bill.

The Government also notes that, in addition to membership, clause 9 of the Bill supports Jobs Queensland to bring a broad perspective to its advice on future skills needs and workforce development and planning. Clause 9 requires Jobs Queensland, in performing its functions, to consult with community representatives, including representatives from rural and regional areas; and representatives from a broad range of industries, including representatives from employers, unions, industry associations and peak bodies.