



Hon John-Paul Langbroek MP
Minister for Education, Training and Employment

Mr Neil Laurie
Clerk of Parliament
George Street
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- 2 JAN 2013

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Dear Mr Laurie *Neil,*

I refer to Petition 1915-12 tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 27 November 2012 regarding Bremer TAFE.

TAFE Queensland has offered quality training for 130 years and is an important part of the vocational education and training (VET) sector in Queensland. That is why the Queensland Skills and Training Taskforce was charged with reviewing the public provider and providing advice to Government about its future strategic direction.

Stakeholder submissions to the Taskforce collectively showed overwhelming support for TAFE Queensland and for significant reform of the public provider to ensure it remains a viable and ongoing concern in the changing VET environment.

On 30 November 2012, I released the Government's response to the Taskforce recommendations, which commits to fundamental reform of the State's VET sector, including a refocused role for TAFE Queensland so that it can thrive in the future.

Underpinning the Government's reform agenda for VET is a goal to increase participation in training in order to boost Queensland's productivity and stimulate economic growth. As part of the Government's reform agenda for VET, there will be changes to the way TAFE Queensland is structured and funded as well as changes to TAFE's infrastructure footprint.

TAFE Queensland will be established in legislation, independent from my Department, with a commercially focused board that will be accountable to me, as Minister for Education, Training and Employment, for the performance of TAFE. Existing TAFE institutes will come under the new single parent entity and collectively continue to play an important role in local communities across Queensland.

Dedicated financial and physical resources will be made available to support reform of TAFE Queensland to ensure a well planned and executed transition to a modern public provider of training that is responsive to the needs of its students, industry and community.

I trust this information clarifies the situation for the petitioners and reaffirms their understanding of the Government's commitment to a refocused role for TAFE Queensland.

Should further information be required on this issue, I invite you to contact Ms Jodi Schmidt, A/Deputy Director-General Training and Employment, by email at Jodi.schmidt@dete.qld.gov.au or on telephone 3237 1578.

Yours sincerely

JOHN-PAUL LANGBROEK MP
Minister for Education, Training and Employment