



Queensland Social
Enterprise Council

Press Release

16 June 2020

For Immediate Release

The Queensland Social Enterprise Council (QSEC) welcomes news of the adoption of Co-operatives National Law (CNL) in the Queensland Parliament today. The CNL represents a nationally-harmonised scheme of legislation regulating co-operatives. Replacing the *Queensland Co-operative Act 1997*, the adoption of the new Bill will benefit Queensland co-operatives by providing an improved regulatory environment supporting co-operatives as a business and enterprise structure. The Attorney-General's office lists the specific benefits for co-operatives to include a reduction in regulatory burdens, increased operational flexibility, and consistency in co-operatives legislation across the Australian states and territories.

QSEC president Emma-Kate Rose said that co-operative QSEC members such as Nundah Co-op, Espresso Train, Reverse Garbage, The Gap Local Organic Co-operative, Caboolture Community Workspace and Lagoon Creek Cafe and Function Co-operative, and many affiliated co-operative businesses all welcome this news to help bring Queensland co-operatives in line with national legislation.

Ms Rose stated "This reform is good news for Queenslanders that want to work together in business. Many social enterprise co-operatives work with some of the nation's most disadvantaged cohort, bringing a sense of respect, meaningful work and benefit to all. They also work to deliver circular economies and innovation through food and agricultural producer groups, keeping local dollars in our regions. Research shows that co-operatives are less likely to feel the impacts of economic downturns and provide a solid foundation for economic recovery due to the shared nature of business risk and deep community connection."

Richard Warner, Co-ordinator at Nundah Community Enterprises Co-operative said "The co-operative businesses model is a robust one and provides a way to break through barriers. Co-ops have created a place where the most disadvantaged can create businesses for themselves for full time employment. This legislation will not only create more awareness for the business model but also make it more accessible."

Co-operatives are democratically-controlled, jointly owned enterprises created for common economic, social and cultural needs and goals.

The explanatory notes for the Bill can be found [HERE](#).

The full Bill can be found [HERE](#).

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