



Speech by

Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR STAFFORD

Hansard Thursday, 12 May 2011

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Skills Development



Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Employment, Skills and Mining) (10.15 am): This government made a promise to stick by the people of Queensland and help them rebuild after our summer of natural disasters and that is what we are doing. Our solid plan for recovery outlined in Operation Queenslander makes it clear that Queensland communities must play a central role in the rebuilding effort. Under a joint \$83 million jobs and skills package developed with the federal government, \$19.5 million has been invested to help more than 2,000 Queenslanders into work while they help their communities rebuild. A \$12.7 million investment in 34 Green Army projects is helping almost 700 people gain valuable work skills from the Lockyer Valley to the Cassowary Coast and out to Longreach and St George.

Members on both sides of the House will be pleased to hear that Rockhampton, Bundaberg, Ipswich, Toowoomba, the Sunshine Coast, Gympie, Mundubbera, Townsville, Murgon, Cherbourg, Cairns, the Whitsunday region, the Banana shire and Brisbane are all communities benefiting from this innovative program. Major new Green Army projects have recently been approved for the Lockyer Valley and Rockhampton. A \$975,000 grant will enable the Lockyer Valley Regional Council to employ 50 unemployed people on five projects in the next 12 months. In Rockhampton, almost \$900,000 has been provided to Jobs Queensland to fund 50 places on the Roads to Recovery 2 project. I saw the valuable work this organisation is carrying out when I visited a project at Rigalsford Park with the member for Keppel in March. I am pleased to hear that the organisation will continue to work closely with the Rockhampton Regional Council to help the community get the city back into shape.

It is important to note that while all of these projects are providing invaluable support to communities, they are also giving many people a new start in life. The skills that people are developing in Queensland's Green Army working on these projects will give many of them a leg-up into the workforce. We will not be cutting and running from Queenslanders during their time of need. On this side of the House we are committed to helping Queensland rebuild until the job is done.