



Speech by

# Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR STAFFORD

Hansard Thursday, 13 October 2011

---

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Green Army



**Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Employment, Skills and Mining) (9.51 am): The Bligh government's Green Army is on the March past yet another major milestone. We have far and away exceeded our promised target of creating 3,000 Green Army jobs in three years. We reached that target a few months ago—12 months ahead of schedule. Today I can announce a new milestone: our Green Army has hit the 4,000 jobs mark. Our \$57 million investment has provided jobs for 4,060 out-of-work Queenslanders. Those Green Army recruits played a key role in Queensland's recovery from disasters. That is because we had the funds ready to roll so that workers could be quickly despatched to disaster areas to help in the massive clean-up. They rose to the challenge and pitched in, cleaning up everything from banana farms to bowls clubs to wildlife habitats to waterways. We cut through red tape so that we could recruit workers straightaway. That is what good planning is all about. It meant businesses could get back on their feet and communities could recover more quickly.

We have seen a magnificent effort from the Green Army teams right across the state, but on top of that we have been able to equip them with the skills they needed to build a solid resume and boost their chances of getting a long-term job. On top of our 4,000 jobs milestone, we have delivered 820 traineeships with councils and community organisations. Almost \$70 million has been invested in rebuilding communities from the Lockyer Valley out to Longreach and up to the Cassowary Coast.

I salute each and every one of our Green Army workers. Their job has not been easy, but in years to come they will be able to look back and reflect on their time as a Green Army worker and feel a real sense of accomplishment knowing they played a very important part in helping the Bligh government rebuild Queensland.