



Speech by


Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR STAFFORD

Hansard Tuesday, 29 November 2011

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Education Trust

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Employment, Skills and Mining) (9.52 am): On Friday night I joined more than a thousand Queenslanders at the Australian Training Awards to witness Brisbane based Hutchinson Builders recognised as Employer of the Year. Eight Queensland finalists took part in the nation's most prestigious training awards. The Bligh Labor government shares and supports their passion and commitment to training excellence.

Our Education Trust—\$1.8 billion over 10 years from future LNG royalties—is our investment in the skills and training of a new generation of Queenslanders, our investment in their future. It means a budding new generation of workers will be better educated and better skilled, with more opportunities than anyone who came before them. It is a first for government and, importantly, it puts Queenslanders first.

We are on the threshold of a new era in economic prosperity. There will never be another opportunity like this. We want all Queenslanders to share in the boom times and have their say on our new Education Trust and how those funds could be used. It will create opportunities for young people that their parents did not have. It could be used for initiatives such as dedicated funds for TAFE and university scholarships, tools for apprentices, tuition fees, education and training initiatives beyond the basics and beyond school years, living expenses and travel expenses for students in regional Queensland. The opportunities are endless.

There are decades of jobs on the horizon, and Labor has its sights set firmly on the future—a future that will be better and brighter than ever before. Our Education Trust will unlock the door to a lifetime of opportunities for young Queenslanders. Planning and providing for the Education Trust with the windfall of this sunrise industry will ensure the bounty of our resources continues to provide opportunities for Queenslanders long into our bright future.