



Speech by

# Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe


MEMBER FOR STAFFORD

Hansard Thursday, 24 March 2011

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## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Apprenticeships and Traineeships

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Employment, Skills and Mining) (10.01 am): As jobs growth continues across Queensland, the Bligh government is making sure Queenslanders have the necessary skills to take up the opportunities on offer. From July last year until February this year, apprenticeship and traineeship commencements across all industries were almost seven per cent higher compared to the same period in 2009-10. In the 2009-10 financial year, the mining and petroleum industries contributed more than \$32 billion to gross state product. As at November of last year, they had also provided some 52,300 direct jobs and almost 157,000 indirect jobs for Queenslanders. Therefore, growth in these industries means growth in opportunities for apprentices.

That is why we are working closely with industry members to help make sure essential workers are appropriately trained to enable our regional economies to meet their full potential. In just one example, the Central Queensland Institute of TAFE will be working with Anglo Coal and BMA Coal to provide off-site training to apprentices in key fields such as electrical, automotive and diesel fitting trades. Under this partnership, the Central Queensland Institute of TAFE will provide the teacher and the learning resources and BMA will provide accommodation through the Coalfields Training Excellence Centre located within the Moranbah State High School. Training will commence in April. Feedback will be sought from participants, Anglo and BMA, and there is a possibility that the scheme will be expanded.

This innovative partnership with industry is aimed at seeing more apprentices complete their training so that they have skills for life. It takes away the hassle of apprentices needing to travel away from their employers to complete the TAFE component of their training.

This is about providing jobs and job opportunities for Queenslanders. It is something that this government promised to do and it is something that we are delivering. We have the strong and stable leadership to deliver for Queensland. We have a leader in this house prepared to deliver for Queensland.