



Speech by


Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR STAFFORD

Hansard Thursday, 8 September 2011

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Mine Safety

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Employment, Skills and Mining) (9.49 am): We are about to enter a new era of economic prosperity in Queensland. The new resources boom on our doorstep will deliver decades of jobs—38,000 jobs in mining over the next few years alone. We said we would deliver jobs and we will.

Those major mining projects mean further training opportunities for tradies, school leavers and apprentices. Our own Skills Queensland will be leading the charge in regions of higher unemployment. We want Queenslanders to fill those jobs. As the Premier has announced, hundreds of funded training places will be opened up at TAFE institutes on the Gold Coast, Cairns, the Sunshine Coast and in the Whitsundays and the Wide Bay-Burnett. One of the most important skills they will learn is safety. There is nothing more important than that.

Queensland has one of the best mine safety records in the world and the best mine safety legislation in the country. The national harmonisation of workplace health and safety legislation is progressing at a rapid pace and will have a significant impact on this industry in Queensland. But I want to reassure all Queenslanders that the Mines Inspectorate is working closely with other major mining states to ensure that the new laws are as good as Queensland's current legislation.

On 19 September, Miners Memorial Day will be held in Mount Isa in the heart of the North West Minerals Province. On 19 September 90 years ago, 75 miners lost their lives in a coal dust explosion at Mount Mulligan. We will remember those 75 lives. We will remember the miners of Box Flat, Kianga, Collinsville and Moura and all miners who have lost their lives since mining began in Queensland. Their deaths are a sad part of our collective history, and the history of workers and their struggles should never be forgotten. With our commitment to mine safety legislation that is world leading, we will remember them.