




Speech by

Lisa France

MEMBER FOR PUMICESTONE

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MINING INDUSTRY

 **Mrs FRANCE** (Pumicestone—LNP) (11.17 pm): This week I had the privilege of being the principal for a day at Tullawong State High School in my electorate of Pumicestone. The principal, Mr Peter Hoehn, leads a team of dedicated teachers and staff who impressed me with their enthusiasm and willingness to go in to bat for their students. Tonight I would like to summarise some of the information I gave to the senior students regarding the skills shortage and employment opportunities in Queensland's mining industry.

Queensland's CSG and LNG industries have the potential to offer as many as 18,000 direct and indirect jobs over the next eight years. Queensland's gas project developments include exploration for coal seam gas in the Surat and Bowen basins, construction of a 450-kilometre gas transmission pipeline to Gladstone and the construction of LNG facilities in Gladstone. As the industry comes into a crucial time of growth and change, the resources industry is on the lookout for the next generation of engineers, scientists and people with trade and semitrade skills. Queensland is one of Australia's fastest growing states and it will require skilled workers for many years to come.

There are many ways to gain employment in the resources industry such as school based apprenticeships; apprenticeships, traineeships and cadetships; trainee positions with a group training organisation; pre-employment and prevocational training in a chosen trade; or tertiary studies. These approaches provide an excellent opportunity to get hands-on experience to establish and advance a career in a broad and dynamic industry. My advice for school leavers is to approach group training organisations for an apprenticeship, approach any employer for work experience or an apprenticeship, enrol in a prevocational or pre-employment course at a trade training organisation or enrol in a bachelor's degree course at a university.

Energy Skills Queensland, ESQ, is the industry skills body promoting career pathways, jobs and workforce development for Queensland's energy and telecommunications industries. As of 1 June 2012, ESQ commenced an apprentice advisor to provide in-depth advice and referral for people wanting to get an apprenticeship in the energy sector. Anyone interested in utilising this service can contact them at their head office in Rocklea or by checking on line at www.careersinenergy.com.au or at www.careersingas.com.au.

Mining Education Australia is delivering world-class undergraduate education in mining engineering. This is a national education joint venture between Australia's four major mining education organisations which provide a great base for those interested in obtaining a degree relevant to the mining industry. The mining industry offers many employment opportunities to students and those already in the workforce and I can, from experience, say with confidence that working within the mining industry is a great career choice.