




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MACKAY

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Sisters in Mining Program

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (2.46 pm): Twelve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in Mackay are now on track to successful careers in mining after graduating recently from the first stage of training in the Sisters in Mining program. A partnership between Thiess, state and federal governments and the Juwarki Bungoo Aboriginal Corporation, the program aims to deliver real and sustainable long-term employment opportunities and careers in the mining sector for Indigenous women in Queensland.

I was honoured to be in attendance at the Sisters in Mining program graduation to witness firsthand the pride and joy of the graduates and their families and friends on their wonderful achievements. The success that these women have achieved demonstrates the significant opportunities that can be realised when different sectors work together. The Labor Palaszczuk government is proud to be a supporter of this program, delivering real jobs now and for the future.

In 2015 Thiess partnered with the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships to capitalise on their expertise in candidate recruitment and provide on-the-ground support for the Juwarki Bungoo Aboriginal Corporation, who secured state and federal government funding to deliver community information sessions in Gladstone, Rockhampton, Blackwater, Mackay, Townsville and the Central Queensland Aboriginal community of Woorabinda.

This is the first time in Central Queensland that the state and federal governments have partnered with an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander not-for-profit organisation and major industry to increase the economic participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women.

From November 2015 to November 2016, this program aims to establish 31 positions across Thiess's Queensland mining operations. Candidates will undertake a three-week pre-employment training program as trainee haul truck operators as well as an 18-month traineeship that will contribute to a certificate III in surface extraction mine operations. They will then have an opportunity for permanent employment in Thiess's Burton, Dawson South, Jellinbah Resources and QCoal Northern Hub projects.

This program not only firmly positions graduates on the path to a successful career in one of the state's biggest industries; it also provides important life skills training in areas such as goal setting—

(Time expired)