




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Fraser Coast, Skills Development

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (10.02 am): I am pleased to inform the House that on Thursday, 14 September Jobs Queensland, in conjunction with the CSIRO and TAFE Queensland, released a research report titled *Growing opportunities in the Fraser Coast: informing regional workforce development*. I table a copy of that report.

Tabled Paper: Report titled 'Growing Opportunities in the Fraser Coast: Informing regional workforce development' [2015].

This collaborative piece of research identifies key demographic trends in terms of population, industries and existing skill bases and proposes a number of scenarios for the future.

The organisations conducted their research locally, meeting with all sectors of the community, including local government, industry, education and, importantly, local residents. Based on the research undertaken, the report identified four key areas of focus for regional skills development in the Fraser Coast: service and people skills, technology skills, numeracy and problem solving and, finally, entrepreneurial skills. These identified areas will now inform the Fraser Coast Workforce Plan, which is due to be released in late 2017, and will speak specifically to the types of training courses, skill sets and investments that will need to be made in order for the Fraser Coast region to capitalise on its economic opportunities.

The report then goes into detail to investigate the specific industries and sectors that the Fraser Coast will experience high growth in and the types of growth and opportunities that it will bring. The report identifies that, with a targeted approach to servicing the existing ageing population and embracing the aged-care and disability sector, there is an outstanding opportunity for the Fraser Coast to position itself as a key knowledge and skills base in this area. This does not mean just support work positions; it means working to attract business and aligned industries to the Fraser Coast to position itself as a leader in the overall industry. It can mean manufacturing in the health equipment industry. It can mean establishing itself as a centre of excellence for training people from across the nation.

When combined with forecast growth in sectors such as tourism and renewable energy, which are both areas that I know the respective ministers are already working hard on, the research report forecasts that, on a conservative estimate, an extra 10,695 jobs will be created in these areas alone in the Fraser Coast region in the period up to 2036. I look forward to the release of the final workforce plan for the Fraser Coast which will support continued employment growth and business opportunities right across the Fraser Coast region.