



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Bailey**


**MEMBER FOR MILLER**

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Record of Proceedings, 14 November 2018

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**RoadTek, Skills and Training**

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.59 am): We on this side of the House take our responsibility very seriously to ensure the next generation of workers have the skills they need to provide the services Queenslanders deserve and have a right to expect. We also want to ensure that young people are given opportunities to participate and prosper in our growing economy and acquire the workplace knowledge that they will need to serve the public in the decades to come. I am proud to say that my department has a number of key initiatives which build on the skills and capability of our workforce. A wide range of apprentices, trainees, graduates, interns and cadets are currently engaged throughout Transport and Main Roads.

In RoadTek we currently have 16 apprentices, eight cadets, two graduates, two interns and 89 trainees. That is 117 young people across RoadTek operations actively engaged in training. Of these, 100 are gaining skills in civil construction, 15 are working in the electrical, mechanical and plant operator trades and two are in business operations. In addition, I am sure everyone in the House is pleased to support RoadTek's dedicated Indigenous trainee program. This program was established formally in April this year as part of a wider commitment to the Commonwealth Games Reconciliation Action Plan. Presently, we have nine Indigenous trainees who are completing their certificate II in construction.

In terms of building capability of our workforce, I am proud to acknowledge the Women in Construction initiative being delivered through my department. This initiative seeks to address the fact that women are underrepresented in the construction sector. To address the challenge, RoadTek consulted with the industry to work on a different approach to attracting female workers into the construction industry. The Women in Construction initiative consists of a four-week induction and training phase followed by a 10-month placement within RoadTek and is targeted at increasing the number of women working in entry-level construction roles. Run as a pilot program in September 2017, RoadTek now has five women currently in this program within our Brisbane operations team. A second program started in February this year with nine women. These training programs are providing career opportunities for young Queenslanders, broadening the diversity of the RoadTek workforce and ensuring a new generation of workers are ready to keep Queensland moving now and into the future.