




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Training in Emerging and Innovative Industries Fund

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (9.45 am): The Training in Emerging and Innovative Industries Fund is another example of the many ways in which the Palaszczuk government is investing in the skills of the future. The Training in Emerging and Innovative Industries Fund is an opportunity for Queensland industries to directly influence investment in skills and training by linking industries undergoing transition and upskilling existing workers who are impacted by digital disruption. The fund is providing \$4 million over two years to help existing workers upskill and workplaces to adopt new practices. It is really great to see that TAFE Queensland are a major training partner in most of these initial projects, reflecting their role as the state's premier vocational education and training provider.

By targeting those industries impacted by digital disruption we will assist industries ranging from tourism to transport, medical services to mining. The grants will help 11 organisations deliver 16 projects right across Queensland to train and upskill staff in digital and sustainable practices. The grants include: \$65,000 to tackle digital disruption in the meat-processing industry; \$390,000 for TAFE Queensland to provide digital literacy skills and training for 60 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander small businesses in the south-east; \$300,000 to assist 125 existing workers in Brisbane and South-East Queensland undertake a data analytics for retailers training program; and \$250,000 for the Mareeba District Fruit and Vegetable Growers to partner with TAFE Queensland to conduct training workshops on farm business management, workforce planning and drone piloting skills. It is also good to see the Queensland Farmers' Federation receive \$250,000 to work with 100 farm owners and employees to address emerging skills needs.

This initiative is providing support and assistance to some of our most important industries as they transition through the digital world. It is important that the Palaszczuk government works through these transitions with industry and employers. We simply cannot let anyone be left behind during the digital transition. TAFE Queensland has been engaged by many of the successful applicants to provide training and workshops, and in some cases TAFE is developing a specific course to meet the needs of specific industries.

The Training in Emerging and Innovative Industries Fund is another example of the Palaszczuk government getting on with protecting the future of Queenslanders, providing vocational education and training in priority skills areas and assistance in the integration of emerging technology and creating jobs.