



Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

Record of Proceedings, 30 April 2019

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Resources Industry, Training

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (10.07 am): Queensland's 30 consecutive months of jobs growth have been helped by many new and established industries, but a big contributor has been Queensland's resources sector. In fact, since 2017, Queensland's resources sector has created almost one in three of Queensland's new jobs and there are no signs of this growth slowing. That is why, over the last five years, we have invested \$78 million in training aimed at supporting Queensland's resources sector. That includes \$22 million in 2017-18 that supported almost 1,700 apprentices and trainees and more than 7,500 students to gain the skills for a job in the thriving resources sector. We are on track to support even more apprentices in the resources sector this financial year, where we have seen more than 1,300 apprentices undertake training already.

The Palaszczuk government is making sure that Queenslanders can join the resources industry with the technical skills that are needed to operate CSG, LNG and hydrocarbons plants and equipment and to work in the gas supply industry with subsidised training. The Palaszczuk government will continue to expand training opportunities to support Queensland's emerging hydrogen industry.

As part of our \$770 million VET investment plan, we are partnering with local councils and industry under our \$9 million Regional Skills Investment Strategy. The program identifies region-specific strategies to increase training opportunities to get even more Queenslanders the skills and training they need to get a job in this industry. That includes in the resources sector in the Central Highlands, Mackay, Rockhampton, Townsville and Whitsunday. Our skills investment does not stop there. We also partner directly with the Queensland Resource Council and the Queensland Minerals and Energy Academy to deliver the Gateway to Industry Schools for minerals and energy.

This program is being offered in 60 schools with the support of 24 sponsor employers in the resources sector. To date the program has helped more than 4,000 students gain work-ready skills to pursue a career in the resources industry. This is a fantastic program providing a talent pipeline of skilled and motivated high school graduates. These graduates now also have access to free TAFE across a range of high priority courses in the resource sector, including a certificate III traineeship in drilling and trenchless technology. Queensland's resources sector has a strong and growing pool of local talent to rely upon and they have the backing of the Palaszczuk government's sizeable training investment.