




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

Record of Proceedings, 16 May 2019

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

TAFE Queensland, Funding

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (10.34 am): Over this term, the Palaszczuk government is investing more than \$130 million to make sure TAFE Queensland students have access to world-class training facilities. This includes upgrades already underway at the Townsville, Toowoomba, Cairns, Mount Gravatt, Caboolture and Loganlea campuses. Recently I attended the Loganlea TAFE to announce \$3.2 million towards expanding veterinary science and nursing training, where we saw a surge of more than 16 per cent in enrolments in the past year. It was great to see federal Labor also commit a further \$1.3 million towards the Loganlea campus if elected.

Queensland needs a partner in Canberra, and that is why it was fantastic to partner with a future Shorten federal Labor government in announcing a new \$40 million SkillsTech TAFE in North Lakes. This new trades campus will provide vital training for up to 3,300 Queenslanders in the growing northern Brisbane region that includes Pine Rivers, Caboolture, North Lakes and Caloundra. In total, federal Labor has committed more than \$45 million for TAFE in Queensland. What has the LNP promised? Zip, zero, nothing, not a cent. In comparison, federal Labor has shown what real national leadership looks like for TAFE.

We have seen federal Labor support TAFE investments in not just North Lakes and Logan but also in Townsville, Cairns, Rockhampton, Mount Gravatt, Acacia Ridge, Whitsundays, Bowen, Redcliffe and Eagle Farm. A Shorten Labor government is also willing to partner with our Free TAFE initiative by investing in 100,000 Free TAFE places and \$330 million to deliver 150,000 apprenticeship subsidies in areas with skills shortages. This is what a fair share for Queensland looks like, and it is needed.

After the chaos of Abbott, Turnbull and now Morrison, more than \$3 billion has been ripped out of skills and training. Scott Morrison has not even said the word 'TAFE' this campaign let alone visited one. After the federal skills minister, Senator Cash, unilaterally declared war on electric vehicles in week 1 of the campaign, she has not been seen or heard from since. It is about time that Queensland got its fair share of federal funding for training, and it is clear that only a Shorten Labor government will deliver for TAFE.