



Speech By  
**Hon. Shannon Fentiman**


**MEMBER FOR WATERFORD**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Gateway to Industry Schools Program

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (7.16 pm): Last week I joined the Premier and some of my parliamentary colleagues, Melissa McMahon, the member for Macalister, and Minister Grace Grace, at the annual Beenleigh State High School Paddock to Plate. There we announced an expansion of the Gateway to Industry Schools Program. This program is inspiring schoolkids across the state by providing a taste of what a future career in an industry would be like and at the same time they are gaining invaluable skills and experience. There are 11 schools in Logan that are current participants in the program, including Loganlea State High School in my electorate. Loganlea State High School participates in the food, wine, tourism and agribusiness gateway programs. Students have access to a 40-hectare farm on the Logan River which is home to a variety of animals, including horses, sheep, goats, cattle and poultry.

Our expansion of this program means we are doubling our funding to \$2.7 million in total. It includes four new projects. These are the first changes to the successful program in over a decade. Importantly, we are doing this in industries that we know will be growing: health; screen and media; information and communication technology; and community services. It is crucial that we support our students in industries with growing career opportunities.

This is in addition to our free apprenticeships for under-21s. Just last month at Marsden State High School I was very pleased to announce that initiative with the Premier. We are providing opportunities for young Queenslanders to gain valuable qualifications across 139 courses so they can have the skills they need to get a job now and into the future. Since 1 July we have seen 55 young people in Logan start an apprenticeship for free. Last month I met 16-year-old Bailey at Bayer Smash Repairs in Loganholme who has turned his passion for car racing into a career path. He is six months into his automotive spray-painting apprenticeship. The remainder of his apprenticeship training costs will now be fully covered and this means Bayer Smash Repairs, like many other small and medium businesses, can afford to take on even more apprentices and trainees.

The Palaszczuk government is absolutely backing apprentices like young Bailey and backing businesses like Bayer Smash Repairs to take on more apprentices and provide lifelong skills for a successful career. Queensland leads the nation when it comes to school based apprentices and trainees and we want to go one step further by expanding our Gateway to Industry Schools Program. We are looking forward to seeing many more young apprentices and trainees right across the state.