




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

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MOTION

Newman LNP Government, Performance

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (11.50 am): Let us start with the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program. One of the first things those opposite did when they came to government was cut the hugely successful Skilling Queenslanders for Work program. Despite there being a Deloitte report that says for every dollar invested in that program \$8 comes back to the Queensland economy, they slashed the program. How many of those community groups here in Townsville that were doing wonderful things, getting young people the training they needed and into jobs, were then left in the cold because those opposite cut the program? There was \$2.5 million in Townsville slashed because of this program. People like Kylie, a single mum trying to get back into the workforce after she had a baby—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, you will cease your interjections.

Ms FENTIMAN: She was struggling to find work here in Townsville and Access Community Services gave her a traineeship for business administration. She is now working part-time for Ergon Energy and doing her hairdressing apprenticeship. It is people like Kylie who were left behind when those opposite were in government and slashed wonderful programs like Skilling Queenslanders for Work. Has the Leader of the opposition explained to the thousands of businesses and local community groups that use that program? Has she apologised to those community groups and those Queenslanders who need that training to get back into work? Has she apologised to the people of Townsville who need these programs?

Let us talk about TAFE. The LNP sacked 2,100 TAFE teachers. Hundreds of TAFE teachers and staff who worked here in Townsville were sacked because of those opposite. They sold off TAFE land in Townsville without reinvesting the proceeds back into TAFE. They did what they always do, of course: they cut, sack and sell. They slashed more than \$20 million from the User Choice budget which pays for apprenticeships and traineeships. Yesterday we hit 20,000 jobs in Back to Work, a program that those opposite wanted to cut. That is 20,000 jobs that would not be there if those opposite were in government. They cut, they sack and they sell.

It is a heartless government that would cut programs like Skilling Queenslanders for Work that actually delivers the skills people need to get a job in the future. I absolutely believe that the Leader of the Opposition needs to stand up today, the last day of this sitting of parliament in Townsville, and apologise to the people of Townsville.