




Speech By
Lance McCallum

MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA

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MOTION

Jobs, Skills and Training

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (12.40 pm): It is always a pleasure to follow the member for Nanango, who certainly had a good go. The member for Nanango asked: 'What do we get after seven years of the Palaszczuk Labor government?' The answer is record numbers of good jobs in Queensland—more than 466,000 since the Palaszczuk Labor government came to power. What did we get after seven years of the Palaszczuk Labor government? You get historically low unemployment of 3.8 per cent, falling underemployment and record levels of skills investment that is about getting more Queenslanders into more jobs in more industries.

Earlier this week we launched our brand new Queensland Workforce Strategy. I commend the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development for all of the work she has put into what is an excellent strategy. That is why our Premier will be able to head to the national Jobs and Skills Summit in Canberra today and talk about Queensland as the job-creating powerhouse of the nation. That extends particularly into the energy industry, where we have jobs being created through our \$2 billion Renewable Energy and Hydrogen Jobs Fund. We have an over \$20 million investment into a renewable centre of excellence at Pinkenba that is under construction right now. We have the hydrogen centre of excellence at Beenleigh which is almost complete. We are the first jurisdiction in Australia to launch a hydrogen industry workforce development road map. We have hydrogen training in our schools, in Gladstone for example. We have \$10 million for Bohle TAFE to develop hydrogen training courses.

Locally in Bundamba, there is \$7 million for the expansion of our state-of-the-art metal trades centre and a brand new robotics centre. Earlier this week we extended our free TAFE program—\$21 million—which will give more young people access to around 26 certificate III courses and 139 different free apprenticeships. It has already helped more than 56,000 Queenslanders gain skills and training for the workplace. Today is TAFE's 140th birthday. Happy birthday, TAFE! There is a \$1.1 billion birthday present from the Albanese federal government with a commitment to add an extra 180,000 TAFE places next year. Labor backs TAFE because we know that TAFE means better skills for good jobs.