




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Record of Proceedings, 30 August 2022

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Workforce Strategy

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure) (9.44 am): In 2020 the Palaszczuk government took decisive action to safeguard the health of our community, and it worked. Because of our strong health response and economic recovery plan, we have seen our state economy grow by 7.8 per cent since before COVID-19. Unemployment is now at a low of 3.8 per cent. Employment has increased by 213,300, or 8.3 per cent, since March 2020—the largest increase in employment of all states and territories. There are now more Queenslanders in jobs than before the pandemic, but we cannot stop there because if we take the right actions now we can make sure Queensland's brightest days are ahead of us. We can secure our great Queensland lifestyle, create even more jobs and deliver better services.

Our 10-year pipeline of projects in the lead-up to the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games will transform Queensland. Over the next 20 years, Brisbane 2032 is set to deliver \$8.1 billion in benefits to Queensland and create 91,600 full-time equivalent jobs per year. The games will drive new investment in infrastructure, tourism, trade, industry and community that will grow Queensland's economy. In the next decade, we will also make Queensland a renewable energy superpower. We will export Queensland sunshine as hydrogen and encourage local large-scale manufacturing to secure a greater share of the value chain. Not only are we creating thousands of new industry hydrogen and renewable energy jobs, we are also creating good, secure jobs in manufacturing and the supply chain.

The next decade is one of significant opportunities for Queensland, and our people will be critical for this vision for Queensland to succeed. The Queensland Workforce Strategy is central to ensuring the skills and capabilities of our workforce. The strategy focuses on delivering a strong and diverse workforce ready to seize today's jobs and adapt to future opportunities. We are already investing \$1.2 billion in the training, development and growth of our workforce. This includes almost \$50 million towards renewable energy and hydrogen training and skills infrastructure, including a new apprenticeship training centre at Beenleigh, a new training facility at Bohle TAFE in Townsville, a new Pinkenba renewable energy training facility and upgraded facilities at Gladstone State High School to prepare students for future jobs. Our investment will ensure highly skilled technicians are available to support the development of the hydrogen industry and capture the new jobs that will be created.

We are also committing an additional \$70 million towards new initiatives through the strategy aimed at increasing the size, skills and adaptability of the state's broader workforce. I look forward to joining the Premier, the Treasurer, Minister Farmer and all of our ministers at the launch later today. For Queensland to continue to thrive, we need the skilled workforce that will allow us to take full advantage of the opportunities ahead. We are ensuring Queensland has a ready workforce to support growth, strengthen our communities and keep Queensland at the forefront of new economic opportunities.