



Speech By  
**Hon. Di Farmer**


**MEMBER FOR BULIMBA**

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Record of Proceedings, 16 March 2023

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Gateway to Industry Schools Program**

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (11.10 am): The Treasurer told us yesterday about the recent ABS data which shows that Queensland's economic performance leads the nation. The Palaszczuk Labor government has made its intentions clear. We are the nation's job creator and we intend to remain so.

We are implementing plans that will sustain our long-term economic growth by creating high-value, secure jobs and the skilled workers to fill those jobs. One such plan is our fee-free TAFE plan which removes participation barriers so all Queenslanders can access job opportunities and which this year alone will deliver free training for 37,000 Queenslanders to get the skills in the industries most in demand. Other such plans are Good people good jobs: Queensland Workforce Strategy 2022 to 2032 and our Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan, which sets a target of 70 per cent renewable energy by 2032 and will produce 100,000 jobs.

When it comes to planning for the renewable energy workforce in this country, we are leading the way. The Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan outlines an investment of \$90 million to establish two new regional transmission and training hubs. We were the first state in Australia to develop a hydrogen industry roadmap to define the skills we need for this critical industry in the future. We committed \$56 million in training infrastructure that will skill Queenslanders for the future renewable energy industry, including the new \$17 million renewable energy training facility and advanced manufacturing skills lab at the Bohle TAFE campus. As the Premier said, the members for Townsville, Thuringowa and Mundingburra joined the Premier, the Treasurer, the Deputy Premier, the ministers for energy and regional development and me to turn the sod on these facilities along with some fantastic TAFE apprentices. These facilities are in addition to the \$17 million for the Electro Group's renewable energy training facility at Pinkenba, a \$20 million investment in the Hydrogen Training Centre of Excellence at PICAC at Beenleigh and \$2 million to upgrade training facilities at the Gladstone State High School.

In addition to making sure we have the facilities to upskill the existing workforce, we know we need to attract a new generation of workers. That is why we have this year added the hydrogen sector to the 10 priority sectors already covered by the Palaszczuk government's successful Gateway to Industry Skills Program. Last year the program helped set more than 30,000 Queensland students on a career path towards industries that are of greatest priority in Queensland. I am very pleased to reiterate the Premier's earlier statement that the original offer to 30 skills has been a roaring success, with 32 skills accepting the offer and more on the waiting list. If Energy Skills Queensland had more capacity, they would take them on. This means that over 2,000 students will have experience in the hydrogen industry and will be more likely to pursue a career in that absolutely critical industry.

As a government we will continue to support initiatives like this that will support good jobs for Queenslanders. We will provide the means and the facilities to create a workforce with the skills and capability that industry needs now and in the future.