



Speech By  
**Hon. Di Farmer**


**MEMBER FOR BULIMBA**

---

Record of Proceedings, 19 April 2023

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**

### **Training and Skills**

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (10.08 am): The Palaszczuk government invests over \$1.2 billion in skills and training every year. We are skilling Queenslanders for the workforce of today and we are skilling them for the jobs of the future. We are especially excited about the opportunities that the renewable energy sector is going to provide for Queenslanders, including through our \$62 billion Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan, which sets a target of 70 per cent renewable energy by 2032 and which will generate jobs for 100,000 workers.

Some of the renewable energy sectors, like hydrogen, are still so new that we are literally mapping future workforce needs as projects are being developed. However, I am proud to say that Queensland is leading the way in providing the infrastructure, the partnerships with industry and the training to ensure our state's workforce takes centre stage. We are investing more than \$50 million in training facilities that will provide workers with the skills they need to enter the growing renewable energy industry: \$20 million on the Hydrogen Centre of Excellence at the PICAC in Beenleigh; \$17 million for the Electro Group's renewable energy training facility; a new hydrogen and renewable energy training facility at Bohle TAFE; and \$2 million to upgrade training facilities at Gladstone State High School.

We have added the hydrogen sector to the 10 priority sectors already covered by the Palaszczuk government's successful Gateway to Industry Schools Program. The program has helped to direct more than 31,000 Queensland students last year alone towards the industries that are of greatest priority to our workforce. With the addition of hydrogen, 2,000 students are now more likely to choose a career path in this industry. When the minister was talking to students who are choosing this career path, one student said to him, 'Where else do I get to work in an industry where I get to change the world?' What a great plus.

We are delivering fee-free TAFE for 37,000 Queenslanders this year alone, including for courses critical to our renewable energy industries, like the Diploma of Applied Blockchain and the Battery Electric Vehicle Inspection and Servicing Skill Set. A range of hugely exciting initiatives are underway. In fact, if I had an hour I would not have enough time to tell members about all of them. An example is that TAFE Queensland has an MOU with Ark Energy to deliver training to workers on the safe production, handling and use of hydrogen. They are developing and piloting four non-accredited safety related courses for heavy vehicles, hydrogen refuelling and storage, and are working with Energy Skills Queensland to pilot non-accredited courses on how to respond to and recognise danger around hydrogen fuel cell vehicles.

We have allocated \$15 million for initiatives in VET emerging industries, including a partnership with Toowoomba and Surat Basin Enterprise, CS Energy and CSQ to map hydrogen skills and training needs at the Kogan Creek demonstration plant and to work with local businesses on how they can be

an important part of the supply chain for hydrogen projects. A micro-credentials program with the Motor Trades Association will enable the upskilling or post-trade training of an automotive workforce to service and repair hybrid and electric vehicles—and there is so much more. The Palaszczuk government is committed to good jobs, better services and a great lifestyle. Our commitment to a renewable energy workforce is a critical part of achieving those goals.