




Speech By
Hon. Lance McCallum

MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA

Record of Proceedings, 12 June 2024

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Budget, Training and Skills

 **Hon. LR McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (10.06 am): The new budget from the Miles Labor government is about making multinational mining companies pay their fair share to help fund a dedicated and considered investment in the future of Queenslanders. It is about doing what matters for Queenslanders. Through our plan for the future, one million Queenslanders will be equipped with the skills necessary for good, high-paying jobs in sectors that are critical to our state's prosperity. This Labor budget locks in our Queensland Skills Strategy and the investment of \$370 million in what matters to Queenslanders, Queenslanders who are seeking the skills for highly paid jobs.

Thanks to our progressive coal royalties, we are expanding Labor's signature Fee-Free TAFE program, creating 70,000 free TAFE places, including 30,000 new places. This will significantly reduce costs for Queenslanders who are looking to get into or progress in critical industries such as health care, social services, hospitality, clean energy and construction. Whether it is a young person training to become a nurse or someone who is learning the ropes of the renewable energy sector, or even someone gaining the skills needed in construction at the largest publicly owned training centre in the Southern Hemisphere at Acacia Ridge, this budget ensures Queenslanders are ready for the job opportunities of both today and tomorrow.

Our new Premier said it best when he said 'free TAFE is changing lives'. This is not just a statement; it is a reality. We have seen Queenslanders who were once facing homelessness, mothers returning to the workforce and young people who had not finished high school now thriving in good jobs thanks to Labor's free TAFE program. This is because the Miles Labor government recognises the importance of ensuring people have the skills needed for the good jobs of our growing economy. Only Labor can deliver a budget that reflects what our state needs. Only Labor can truly deliver what matters to Queenslanders.