

Question on Notice
No. 542
Asked on 24 March 2010

MRS CUNNINGHAM asked the Premier and Minister for the Arts (MS BLIGH) -

QUESTION:

As the Premier regularly refers to the LNG industry planned for Surat and Gladstone - Will the Premier list the improved infrastructure across all portfolios for areas including education, communities, child safety, health, police and transport to cater for the projected construction and operational phases of all LNG proposals?

Answer:

The multi-billion dollar Liquefied Natural Gas industry offers incredible opportunity for Gladstone and the Surat Basin.

My Government is determined to harness that opportunity while protecting the environment and liveability that Gladstone and South West Queensland residents love.

Planning

Extensive planning to manage the LNG boom is either underway or has been completed. This includes:

- Urban Development Area – Gladstone is receiving the first UDA area outside Brisbane. Located at Clinton, the site of about 230 lots will provide diverse and affordable housing.
- Port of Gladstone Western Basin Master Plan – This ‘blueprint’ maps out the future for part of Gladstone’s industrial heartland over the next three decades.
- Social Infrastructure Strategic Plan for Gladstone – This study is being done in collaboration with Gladstone Regional Council and will identify priorities for social infrastructure.
- \$10 million CSG-LNG Industry Training Program - a flagship partnership with industry to train the thousands of workers needed for the new Coal Seam Gas and LNG industries.
- Up to \$30 million to acquire a land corridor to accommodate LNG pipelines to Curtis Island
- Sustainable Resource Communities Policy – This policy to boost infrastructure in regional and rural mining communities has been backed by a \$100 million fund. \$37 million has been provided for projects in Central Queensland and \$23.6 million into the Surat.
- Surat Basin Future Directions Statement – a strategy to produce comprehensive plans for preferred settlement, transport, housing affordability, social impact, economic strategy, and workforce development in the Surat Basin.

Already delivered

While this planning will result in significant additional spending to help manage the LNG boom in Gladstone, my Government is already delivering with \$490 million committed to projects for the Gladstone Region and surrounds in the 2009-10 budget alone.

This includes:

Job generating infrastructure (including transport)

Over \$160 million committed for job generating projects including \$8.1 million to develop the Stanwell to Gladstone Infrastructure Corridor, more than \$27 million towards general work around the Port of Gladstone and \$1.2 million for a new Transport Customer Service Center in Gladstone.

Education and Skills

\$7.1 million for a purpose built Roma Energy Training Facility to cater for skilling for the LNG Industry. A further \$1.79 million to upgrade TAFE facilities at Roma, Gladstone and Biloela to assist with the management of additional training requirements as a result of growth in these regions and \$6.9 million under the Trade Training Centres program to help young people in these regions gain relevant vocational skills.

Community (including Housing and Social Infrastructure)

\$7 million for community spending including \$856,000 for the Gladstone South Community Hub, more than \$250,000 for a support service for young people, and \$893,000 to help with living arrangements for adults with a disability.

Health

Additional funding including \$3.3 million to complete the co-location of the community based health and mental health services to the Gladstone Hospital site and \$82,000 for Chronic Disease Indigenous Health.