

Question on Notice

No. 253

Asked on 1 April 2014

Mrs Cunningham asked the Minister for Education, Training and Employment (Mr Langbroek) –

QUESTION:

With reference to the projected skills shortage for the operation of LNG on Curtis Island — Will the Minister review funding for the Gas Training Centre and consider alternative sites including the PELM area at CQU?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for her question.

As one of the four pillars of Queensland's economy, supporting the resource sector is vital to our state's prosperity. As the Member may be aware, the \$21 million Gladstone based Energy Training Centre announced in July 2013 was a joint Commonwealth and Queensland Government project.

The Queensland Government's contribution was to be a \$4 million parcel of land at the Central Queensland Institute of TAFE (CQIT) Gladstone campus. The Commonwealth Government's \$16.6 million contribution was being provided through funding under the Education Investment Fund (EIF) Regional Priorities program and was for the construction of the facility.

Following an assessment of funding priorities, unfortunately Commonwealth funding through this round of EIF is no longer available and therefore the project as it was envisaged can no longer proceed.

On 11 September 2013, I signed an Agreement on behalf of the State with the Vice-Chancellor of Central Queensland University to merge the University and CQIT. This merger includes the transfer of CQIT land and assets valued at \$116.7 million, including the Gladstone campus.

Future considerations for an Energy Training Centre in Central Queensland will be an important consideration for the Central Queensland University.