

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1275

asked on 8 November 2022

MR T WATTS ASKED THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS AND MINISTER FOR TRAINING AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT (HON D FARMER) —

QUESTION:

With reference to the plumbing and gas tower at the Toowoomba TAFE—

Will the Minister advise (a) when structural building issues were reported in the tower, (b) what work has been done to rectify these issues, (c) when this work will be completed and (d) how many local apprentices have received certificates at other TAFE campuses and what their locations were?

ANSWER:

(a) When structural building issues were reported in the tower?

On 10 March 2022 potential structural concerns with the Plumbing and Gas Tower at the Toowoomba campus were reported by the Regional Workplace Health & Safety advisor. Training was ceased and the concerns were escalated to TAFE Queensland (TAFEQ) on 10 March 2022.

(b) What work has been done to rectify these issues?

The Department of Employment, Small Business and Training (DESBT) engaged QBuild to investigate the issue as raised by TAFEQ. Following an onsite visit on 14 March 2022, QBuild recommended a detailed structural engineering report, building survey and quantity survey assessment be undertaken.

The structural engineering report was completed on 25 May 2022, the building survey report was completed on 20 June 2022 and the quantity survey assessment was completed 6 October 2022. The findings recommended interim and long-term solutions for the Plumbing and Gas Tower facility at Toowoomba campus.

DESBT, TAFEQ and QBuild have undertaken the following works as an interim solution to maintain training delivery:

- establishment of a temporary multi-level scaffolding platform, to deliver sanitary plumbing training at Toowoomba campus;
- rectification of the sand pit training facility, to maintain training (drainage stream) for plumbing students at Toowoomba campus; and
- expanding training (gas stream) at Acacia Ridge TAFE campus, to temporarily accommodate students from Toowoomba campus.

(c) When this work will be completed?

The final interim works to ensure gas training can be safely delivered at the Toowoomba campus are currently underway and are expected to be completed by April 2023.

TAFEQ will ensure any affected students from the Toowoomba campus can continue their training course requirements at the Acacia Ridge campus until April 2023.

(d) How many local apprentices have received certificates at other TAFE Queensland campuses and what their locations were?

Gas training delivery was the only area where alternative practical spaces were required offsite.

Only 8 students were affected, and they were able to successfully continue their apprenticeship training at the Acacia Ridge TAFE campus. These apprentices are eligible to access travel cost reimbursements.