Mrs Keech asked the Minister for Employment, Skills and Mining (Mr Hinchliffe) –

QUESTION: Will the Minister provide details of the Bligh Government’s activities to ensure communities such as Gold Coast and Logan are able to take advantage of the Queensland mining boom?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for her question.

The Queensland Government is at the forefront of helping the communities of Logan and the Gold Coast in taking advantage of Queensland’s mining boom.

With an estimated 38,000 jobs predicted to be available over the next four to five years, Queenslanders need to get the skills required to take advantage of the boom.

That is why the Queensland Government hosted the Work for Queensland expos across five Queensland locations – namely the Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Fraser Coast, Whitsundays and Cairns.

Over 10,000 Queenslanders attended the Gold Coast Mining and Gas Jobs Expo held on 19 October 2011. The expo provided information about the types of jobs that are currently available and that will be available in the future, as well as how to get the skills to take advantage of the boom.

TAFE Queensland provided information to local residents for their Resources 101 course which provides participants with an introduction to working in the resources sector and can lead to further training. Courses will commence at Gold Coast Institute of TAFE shortly.

The Bligh Government is continuing to show its commitment to supporting the resources boom, while at the same time supporting Queenslanders who wish to work in this industry.

**Coal Seam Gas Drilling Skills Program**

*Skilling Queenslanders for Work* is a Queensland Government initiative that helps unemployed and underemployed people gain the skills they need to enter or re-enter the labour market. The initiative provides customised employment and training assistance to individuals, improving their readiness for work. In 2010–11, over 26,000 jobless or underemployed people received employment assistance, including accredited training.

The initiative has an enviable record of achievement, with destination survey results showing that two out of every three *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* participants were in work and/or training 12 months after exiting their program.

With $293,930 in funding under the *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* initiative in 2010-11, Energy Skills Queensland and Boystown coordinated the Coal Seam Gas (CSG) Drilling Skills Program in Logan, Ipswich, Bundaberg, Gympie and Roma to prepare jobseekers for opportunities in the drilling industry on CSG projects in the Surat Basin. 91 jobseekers, including 49 Indigenous participants, undertook accredited training in Certificate II in Drilling Oil/Gas Onshore with industry specific job preparation assistance, 44 participants have already secured employment with drilling companies. On completion of the program it is anticipated that 50 per cent will gain employment in the drilling industry and 50 per cent will undertake further training.
The CSG Drilling Skills Program was developed in response to research that estimates there will be a requirement for more than 700 drilling jobs over the next two years. In 2011–2012 the program aims to train a further 90 Indigenous and unemployed workers to be job ready for the CSG industry, with Hervey Bay joining existing delivery locations.

This is a collaborative project with funding also being sourced from the Department of Education and Training and the Australian Government.

The *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* initiative will continue to support disadvantaged jobseekers to get the skills and training they need to compete for full-time jobs and increasing community capacity to meet the changing needs of the labour market. The success of the *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* initiative lies in the flexibility of its programs to respond to changing priorities and economic climates.

Since the *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* initiative began on 1 July 2007, $60,873,089 has been invested, assisting over 15,700 people in Logan and the Gold Coast.

This Government is continuing to show its commitment to supporting the resources boom while at the same time supporting Queenslanders who wish to work in this industry.