

Developing a Skilled Workforce Fact Sheet

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Developing a Skilled Workforce

Developing a Skilled Workforce is one of six headline initiatives of the Surat Basin Future Directions Statement. The Surat Basin is currently experiencing rapid development as a result of the expanding energy resources sector and the Surat Basin Future Directions Statement drafted by the Queensland Government provides a framework for a coordinated, region-wide approach to maximize economic growth, stabilize development and minimise unintended consequences of rapid growth in the region.

The Department of Education and Training is responsible for leading the 'Developing a Skilled Workforce' initiative and developing a coordinated Workforce Development Plan in partnership with regional stakeholders that will address the following key issues:

- Shortages of labour and an appropriate skilled workforce;
- Need to provide relevant and timely training in the region;
- Attracting and retaining skilled staff; and
- Identified need for a flexible workforce able to respond to anticipated peaks in demand.



Workforce Development Plan

The Surat Basin region already has a diverse range of employment opportunities in the mining, energy, agricultural and service industries. The expansion of the resources sector will increase the number of opportunities in the region for businesses and workers.

Workforce requirements will vary over coming years during the expansion and establishment of key industries including the energy resources sector. The availability of a skilled workforce is critical to the growth of large, medium and small industry and building resilience in the Surat Basin regional communities.

The Department of Education and Training is working in partnership with key stakeholders and organisations to identify possible future workforce needs and strategies to mitigate any impact from large industries expanding in the Surat Basin. Assess and coordinate the demand for skills and labour in the region;

The Workforce Development Plan will be a comprehensive, responsive and adaptive plan that integrates workforce needs, responsive strategies and actions to be implemented by government, industry and the local community. The Workforce Development plan will be completed by 31 December 2010.



Why would industry or the community want to be involved?

The Workforce Development plan will benefit industries and the community by:

- Identifying increasing employment opportunities and career paths for the future workforce in the Surat Basin;
- Better targeting investment in vocational education and training funding; and
- assisting employers and industry sectors with possible strategies to meet workforce development needs, including retention strategies;

The scope of opportunities and challenges in the Surat Basin Region presents an opportunity for government, industry and the community to work together and share responsibility for the region's development.

Is anything happening already?

The following groups and organisations have commenced work that will be incorporated into the Workforce Development Plan.

Energy Skills Queensland (ESQ)

A report ([Energy Skills Queensland Workforce Planning Report](#), Sept 09) was commissioned by the Queensland CSG/LNG Skills Taskforce. Within this report key CSG/LNG stakeholders (Arrow Energy, Origin Energy, QGC and Santos) were consulted regarding demand for skills and labour under high, medium and low production by 2020.

ESQ (on behalf of Construction Skills Qld) is also conducting a workforce needs analysis exercise for the construction phase of the CSG/LNG developments. This analysis is focusing on upstream feeding systems which include field development, compression plants, transmission pipelines, wells,

and gathering systems. This is due for completion in June.

The Workforce Development Plan Working Group

The first Working Group meeting was held in Chinchilla on the 28 April 2010. The Working Group consists of representatives from government, industry and the community and is anticipated to assist with identifying community issues and actions to be included in the Workforce Development Plan.

What is happening next?

- The next Working Group Meeting is scheduled for 10.00am-2.00pm on 2 July 2010 at the Corvette Room, Dalby RSL;
 - The strategies and actions from the first meeting of the group will be reviewed, and
 - Action plans will be developed to ensure business growth in the Surat Basin is supported by comprehensive workforce planning and development.
- A consultant has been identified to conduct an analysis of workforce and skills needs of minerals, communities and small and medium enterprise;
- Current workforce development activities are being identified for inclusion in the Workforce Development Plan; and

Who can get involved and how?

The working group is open to stakeholders from government, industry and community. If you would like to be involved in the Developing a Skilled Workforce initiative, please contact the Department of Education and Training on (07) 3237 1388.

Department of **Education and Training**

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