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**WIWD**  
Whitsunday Industrial Workforce Development



**Newsletter**

### Welcome from the Chair

Welcome to the second Whitsunday Industrial Workforce Development newsletter. Through this newsletter, we aim to update you on the activities and actions of the five WIWD platforms, as well as bring you interesting articles and news items relevant to workforce development.

The good news is that the WIWD platforms are still growing, with a steady stream of optimistic and enthusiastic representatives keen to assist with meeting the future workforce needs of the Whitsundays.

If you would like to become involved, it is not too late! We welcome all and any contributions, whether that be in the form of time, knowledge or simply observations.

Importantly, we would like to hear from industry representatives regarding their current and future workforce needs.

Together, we can achieve our aim of a sustainable, skilled local workforce capable of meeting the industrial expansion of the Whitsunday region.

I would also like to applaud all our current representatives, as our progress from a Skills Formation Strategy at the start, to where we are now, has been incredibly productive; so much so, we have surpassed many other schemes in comparison.

This can only be attributed to the proactive and collaborative contribution made by everyone, which, ultimately, will provide success for the project.

Colin Thompson - WIWD Chair

## What's going on?

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**Capability Platform** - The Capability Platform is making a wide range of industry and government contacts in order to understand the current capabilities of the Whitsundays and surrounding areas and what can be delivered as projects progress.

The platform is closely monitoring what stage projects are up to, in order to be ready to meet demand - projects at EOI or projected start stage are obviously a priority.

This platform is looking at job seeker programs, apprenticeship programs and skilling initiatives and planning has commenced for a 'Festival of Opportunities', which will showcase the variety of industries in the region that offer sustainable career opportunities.

**Supply Platform** - The Supply Platform has formulated a set of objectives to guide the group, as follows:

- To take actions to enable an adequate supply of skilled labour
- To influence infrastructure in the region that will support increased workforce and their families
- To influence the environment that encourages supply of workforce

Two issues have been identified and are being evaluated, as they may affect the supply of residential and industrial land and the associated social infrastructure. They are the Draft Mackay-Isaac-Whitsunday Regional Plan and the possibility of scheduling more flights on the Brisbane to Proserpine route.

**Policy Platform** - The Policy Platform will react to issues and problems identified by the other platforms. Its charter is to respond to issues/problems that require a change or shift in policy settings of Government (Regional, State or Federal) or a private sector company or organisation.

The objectives of the Policy Platform are:

- To respond and report in a timely manner on policy issues identified by other platforms
- To monitor policy issues and assist organisations in understanding the implications of policy decisions within the Whitsunday region
- To influence government and industry policy settings

Currently there are three issues requiring further investigation:

1. Employer workforce policies (for example, only employing people in a set local boundary). Is there going to be similar policies for the Whitsundays and how will that affect the region?
2. Is the 'living away from home' allowance becoming a hindrance to encouraging

- workers from settling in the region?
3. Bowen being under two different government areas - creating problems for funding and support

**Communications Platform** - Similar to the Policy Platform, the Communications Platform will react to the needs of the other platforms and prepare key messages etc based on the specific communication objectives and target audience.

A WIWD logo has been developed and an application is being prepared for a grant to develop a website. A 'welcome pack' to bring new stakeholders up-to-date is also being developed and relationships with local media are being nurtured.

The minutes from each platform meeting are very important in a communications sense, and it was decided at the last meeting that a summary of the minutes will be presented by the platform chairs at each Steering Group meeting.

**Resources Platform** - The Resources Platform is currently seeking additional funding so WIWD can develop marketing collateral, including a website, and continue to undertake communications activity including the monthly newsletter and media relations.

In addition, the Resources Platform is seeking funds to undertake a range of research activities to assist with understanding the local capacity to address the workforce needs.

For a complete list of WIWD platform representatives and members of the WIWD Steering Group [Click here](#).

## NEWS

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### **Adani CEO details \$10bn investment**

Adani Group will invest up to \$10bn over the next decade in its Carmichael Coal Mine and in rail, air and port infrastructure, including Abbot Point coal terminal. The figures were revealed at the Enterprise Whitsundays Bowen Business Information Forum, on Tuesday, August 30, at the Queens Beach Hotel, where Adani CEO Jignesh Derasari talked about the company's plans. [Click here](#) for the full story.

### **The 30 Student Solution**

CQ University has come up with a proposal to address the Queensland mining skills shortage called the '30 Student Solution', which invites industry to work with CQU to be part of a solution strategy that involves research to quantify current and future skills shortages, consultation with mining companies about their requirements, a seminar (Friday September 9) and a CQU response strategy including cadetships and an improved mining engineering and geoscience program. To read the full proposal, [click here](#).

### **EWLP signs SMART Materials agreement**

East West Line Parks, the company behind the much talked-about 'Iron Boomerang' Project, has signed an agreement with Japanese consulting firm Nomura Research

Institute to examine a pre-feasibility study into the SMART Materials Concept, which will focus on supplying steel products and other related products from Australia to the expanding market in Asia. [www.ewlp.com.au/media](http://www.ewlp.com.au/media)

### **Surat Basin Workforce Development Plan now available**

The Surat Basin Future Directions Statement provides a framework for a coordinated, region-wide approach to maximise economic growth and stabilise development in the region. The Queensland Government has identified possible skill shortages in the Surat Basin workforce and the need to develop a comprehensive workforce development plan to address these issues and map future workforce needs. A copy of the Surat Basin Workforce Development Plan is available on the Skills QLD website: <http://www.skills.qld.gov.au/suratworkforceplan.aspx>

### **Skills Australia 2011 Interim Report on Resources Sector Skill Needs**

Following its consideration of the National Resources Sector Employment Taskforce (NRSET) report published in 2010, the Australian Government has asked Skills Australia to prepare annual reports about the resources sector's likely demand for labour and the supply of skills available to meet the sector's skill needs. To view a copy of the Skills Australia 2011 Interim Report on Resources Sector Skill Needs, click here: [http://www.skillsaustralia.gov.au/PDFs\\_RTf/InterimReport.pdf](http://www.skillsaustralia.gov.au/PDFs_RTf/InterimReport.pdf)

### **Tertiary education and training enters exciting new era**

Employment, Skills and Mining Minister Stirling Hinchliffe announced on August 1 that tertiary education and training institutions in Queensland would be transformed over the coming years to meet the challenges of a new era. A ministerial taskforce will be established to oversee reforms and a review of the sector has also been released. <http://www.cabinet.qld.gov.au/mms/StatementDisplaySingle.aspx?id=75896>

## **In Brief...**

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- The Bowen Neighbourhood Centre has started a monthly newsletter summarising community training opportunities and workshops in the area, so they are utilised and therefore continue to be available. Current courses include a Pre-Employment Training Program and Certificate II in Retail. For more information phone Megan Mudie on 4786 2111 or email [pip\\_bnc@bigpond.com](mailto:pip_bnc@bigpond.com)
- The Central Queensland Institute of TAFE Mackay is currently running community service workshops at its Mackay campus. A variety of workshops are being run from now until November. For more information, phone 1300 278 233 or email: [communityservicemackay@deta.qld.gov.au](mailto:communityservicemackay@deta.qld.gov.au)



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