A new $21 million energy training centre at the Gladstone campus of the Central Queensland Institute of TAFE (CQIT) will boost the local economy by providing more than 140 additional training places in the resources and energy sector.

Minister for Higher Education Senator Kim Carr and Minister for Skills and Training Brendan O’Connor said the centre would bring new skills to the region, especially those required by the booming gas industry.

“The Labor Government investment in this state-of-the-art training centre will create 67 new jobs in the construction phase, and once completed will provide a new, hi-tech learning environment for trainees,” Senator Kim Carr said.

“This centre demonstrates our commitment to the economic future of Central Queensland and to giving local young people the skills they need to get the most out of this growing industry that has created around 100,000 jobs in the last year alone.”

Launching the centre in Gladstone today, Minister O’Connor said the training facility would include simulators so students could train in a safe, virtual environment before progressing to live equipment.

“The project has been designed to respond to regional demand for skills, particularly the $60 billion worth of coal seam gas to liquefied natural gas projects around Gladstone,” Mr O’Connor said.

“The centre will mean industry will be able to employ local graduates with job-ready skills, who have learnt in a highly practical environment.”

“The merger of CQIT and Central Queensland University will create Queensland’s first dual-sector university which will offer Central Queenslanders a full range of courses, from Certificate I through to PhDs.”

The Australian Government is providing $73.8 million through the Structural Adjustment Fund for infrastructure and other activities to support the merger.
For more information on the Regional Priorities Round of the EIF visit:


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