New era for TAFE Queensland

Employment, Skills and Mining Minister Stirling Hinchliffe has announced the formation of a ministerial taskforce to lead a three year transformation of TAFE Queensland.

Minister Hinchliffe said TAFE institutes would be transformed over the coming years to meet the challenges of a new era in training.

“There are major reforms planned across the country and I want TAFE Queensland to be at the forefront of change and to lead the way as a reinvigorated public provider of first class training,” Mr Hinchliffe said.

The Minister has appointed former Director General, Peter Henneken (AO), to lead the taskforce.

Mr Henneken has vast experience in vocational education, training, employment, industrial relations and workplace health and safety. In his 40 years in government, both state and federal, his policies have made a huge difference to the lives of thousands of Queenslanders.

“You would be hard-pressed to find anyone better equipped than Peter Henneken to take on this important role,” he said.

“Other members of the taskforce will bring a wealth of experience from the electrical, mining and plumbing industries, public and private training providers and the retail, construction and property industries,” he said.

The establishment of a ministerial taskforce follows a review of the sector commissioned by the State Government – the Queensland Post Secondary Education and Training Review.

“The review acknowledges we are leading the way with solid achievements in the apprenticeship space and through Skills Queensland, putting in the hard yards to show industry the way to invest.”

“The billions of dollars being invested in projects in Queensland means skilled workers are in high demand and that’s where TAFE Queensland has a crucial role to play,” he said.

Minister Hinchliffe said the overhaul of TAFE would help the State Government reach its 2020 target of three out of four Queenslanders holding a trade, training or tertiary qualification.
“Queensland is on the threshold of a new era in economic prosperity. The infrastructure on our books will deliver decades of jobs for Queenslanders which means a robust and resilient TAFE sector is more important than ever,” he said.

“The new taskforce, led by Mr Henneken, will provide expert advice based on the review findings and feedback from stakeholders, all in the context of the wider national reforms,” he said.

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