Premier Anna Bligh has announced the appointment of the Chair, Board members and Chief Executive Officer of Skills Queensland.

Ms Bligh said the appointments meant Skills Queensland could formally begin work to ensure Queensland was equipped to meet current and future skills demand.

“The Bligh Government established Skills Queensland in October this year to ensure we are working with industry to skill up Queenslanders for the jobs of today and the future,” she said.

“Industry is best-placed to tell us what type of skills are needed and when, and that’s why we’re working with industry leaders on workforce and skills development.

“Queensland Industry faces the challenge of getting the right skills, in the right place, at the right time and the Government has a plan to achieve that balance.

“The Skills Queensland Board will advise government on where investment in skills and training should be directed.

“Skills Queensland’s top priority will be to develop a Skills and Workforce Development Plan which will look at skills needed over the short, medium and long-term.”

Education and Training Minister Geoff Wilson said a reference group will also be established to allow a wide range of industry representatives, including employers, unions, universities and the training sector, to provide feedback to Skills Queensland.

“I would like to acknowledge and thank members of the Interim Steering Committee for the early work undertaken so the Board could hit the ground running,” he said.

“One example of where industry and government investment is generating new opportunities is the Coal Seam and Liquefied Natural Gas (CSG/LNG) industry which is expected to create more than 18,000 jobs in the long term.

“The Government is committed to securing the state’s economic future and continuing to generate job opportunities for Queenslanders.

“It is our goal as part of Toward Q2 to see three in four Queenslanders holding a trade, training or tertiary qualification by 2020.”
Appointees:

Mr Gregory Kempton – Chair and Board member
Ms Nicole Hollows – Board member
Mr Ian Mitchell – Board member
Professor Sandra Harding – Board member
Mr Andrew Dettmer – Board member
Mr Benjamin Swan – Board member
Mr John Battams – Board member
Julie Grantham – Board member
Ian Fletcher – Board member

Mr Rod Camm – Chief Executive Officer

Media contact: 3237 1000

December 15, 2010

Board

Mr Greg Kempton is the Managing Director of Watpac and has over 35 years experience in the construction, mining, engineering and property industries across Australia.

Nicole Hollows is the Chief Executive Offices and Managing Director of Macarthur coal Limited. Nicole had been involved in the Mining Industry for many years and is a Board member of the Queensland Resources Council.

Ian Mitchell is the General Manager of RACQ Limited Brisbane. Ian is a former CEO of Tourism Queensland and former Group General Manager for Qantas Airways.

Professor Sandra Harding is the Vice-Chancellor of James Cook University. Professor Harding has extensive academic and academic leadership experience including more than 12 years in Australian University sector. Professor Harding is a Board member of the Australian Learning and Teaching Council and Director of Townsville Enterprise and Advance Cairns.

Mr Andrew Dettmer is the State Secretary of the Australian Manufacturing Workers Union. Mr Dettmer is the Chair of Manufacturing Skills Queensland, member of the Building and Construction Industry Training Fund Board, a member of SkillsTech Australia Board, member of the QMI Solutions Board, member of the Training, Employment and Recognition Council and member of the Enterprise Connect Manufacturing Board.
Benjamin Swan is the Assistant Secretary of the Australian Workers’ Union with experience working with the Mining, Refining and Gas industries.

Mr John Battams is the General Secretary, Queensland Teachers' Union. Mr Battams is currently the Chair of the Queensland Residential Tenancies Authority and a Director of Sunsuper. He is the former director of WorkCover Queensland.

Julie Grantham is Director-General of the Department of Education and Training. She was a teacher in Queensland state schools for 14 years, served as a principal for seven years and has held several high-level public sector roles.

Ian Fletcher is Director-General of the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation. He has served in a number of high-level public sector roles.

CEO

Rod Camm is the Associate Director-General, Skills, Tertiary and Non-State Education for the Department of Education and Training. Mr Camm has held various positions within government and is also the former CEO of Construction Skills Queensland. He has extensive experience working in the Vocational Education and Training Industry.

For more information on how to be a part of new and emerging industries in Queensland, visit www.opportunities.qld.gov.au