

29 April 2013

Mrs Rosemary Menkens MP
Chair
Education and Innovation Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mrs Menkens

Inquiry into the TAFE Queensland Bill 2013

I refer to the above inquiry and provide a brief submission on behalf of the Australian Mines and Metals Association (AMMA).

About AMMA

AMMA is Australia's resource industry employer group. Our membership is diverse both in terms of geography and coverage of every resources sub-sector and servicing industry. Similarly, AMMA's influence in Queensland is comprehensive. Sixty of our more than 400 member companies are based in Queensland. Many more have active operations in the State.

AMMA members employ 50,000 workers in Queensland. This represents 70% of the State's total mining workforce. Between 2002 and 2012, mining employment in Queensland increased by 242% and the value of advanced major mining projects increased by 1799%.

AMMA has several consultants actively providing industry services to employers operating and involved with the construction of Queensland's four major LNG pipeline projects. During the peak construction demand – until 2016 – these projects are forecast to create around 40,000 new Queensland jobs.

In relation to the delivery of training to the resource sector, AMMA is one of Australia's market leaders. As a Registered Training Organisation, AMMA offers a variety of training solutions to those wishing to enhance their skills to build or take up a career within the industry. AMMA works with its members and other industry bodies to ensure industry-relevant training is consistent, cost effective and of a high quality.



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TAFE Queensland Bill 2013

AMMA made a submission (dated 17 September 2012) to the Queensland Government's Skills and Training Taskforce. The submission demonstrated the benefits of forging stronger ties between industry and education, consistent with recommendations made in the National Resources Sector Employment Taskforce Report. It did so by reference to AMMA programs directed to addressing skills shortages in the resources sector and allied sectors. The submission provided evidence of the way in which AMMA programs ensure that training leads to skills which deliver growth in employment and productivity.

Accordingly, AMMA is pleased to note that the bill would require a greater level of engagement between industry and TAFE Queensland; for example:

- clause 8(1)(f) would confer TAFE Queensland with the function of contributing to and actively engaging with industry on matters relating to its functions;
- clause 8(1)(a) would require TAFE Queensland to perform its functions, inter alia, in a way that is responsive to the needs of industry; and
- clause 14(1)(b) would require the TAFE Queensland board membership to include direct industry experience.

In short, AMMA looks forward to participating in a new era of vocational education and training in Queensland. As AMMA represents the breadth of the resource industry in Queensland, including contractors and subcontractors of direct relevance to vocational education and training, it is in a strong position to assist in the successful implementation of the legislative reforms to be effected by the bill.

We would be pleased to discuss this submission further. Please contact Julie Copley, Policy Manager on (07) 3210 0313 or via email: julie.copley@amma.org.au.

Yours sincerely



SCOTT BARKLAMB
Executive Director, Industry