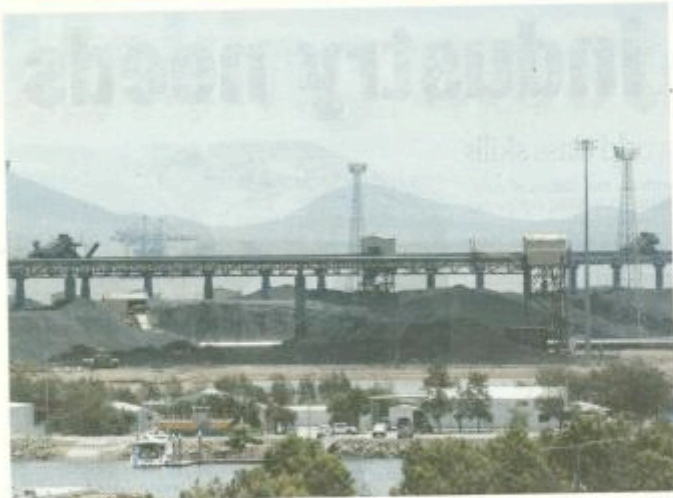


Trades and Technical

SPECIAL REPORT - Focusing on jobs



The State Government is spending millions on infrastructure to get Gladstone ready for the LNG boom.

City prepares for LNG boom

State Government opens its purse to get Gladstone ready for explosive growth

BY the end of this financial year, the State Government will have spent almost half a billion dollars in and around Gladstone, preparing the region for the LNG boom.

Premier Anna Bligh said the spending would be guided by the lessons learned in managing the explosive growth of the Bowen Basin.

"We need to train thousands of workers for the new coal seam gas and LNG industries and to help achieve this we've announced the \$10 million CSG-LNG Industry Training Program in partnership with industry," Ms Bligh said.

"I have also recently announced the Surat Basin Future Directions Statement - a strategy to produce comprehensive plans for preferred settlement, transport, housing affordability, social impact, economic strategy, and workforce development in the Surat Basin.

"While this planning will result in significant additional spending to help manage the LNG boom, my government is already delivering with \$490 million committed to projects for the Gladstone Region and surrounds in the 2009-10 budget alone.

"We have learnt from the experience in the Bowen Basin that rapid growth associated with resource industries can put pressure on communities.

"That's why we are doing the planning and working with locals to ensure this doesn't happen with LNG." The projects include job

generating infrastructure (including transport), education and skills, community (including housing and social infrastructure) and health.

Graduates learn on the job

NOTHING compares to practical experience, which is why an increasing number of companies in the resource sector are introducing graduate placement programs.

These programs allow recent university graduates to move from study to employment, while broadening their experience and skills under the supervision of an experienced mentor.

Macmahon Holdings, one of Australia's leading construction and contract mining companies, offers such a program, with graduate mining engineer Jack MacDiarmid saying the program had seen him gain experience in a wide range of situations.

"Having completed 10 months underground at Olympic Dam in a full range of roles, including nippering, service crew, truck driving and charge up, I gained a good understanding of high speed development in a large mine," Jack said.

"I then spent three

months as part of the Estimating and Technical Services team in the Brisbane area, where I was involved in contract tendering and site support.

"Recently, I have moved to the Argyle Diamond Mine, a block cave project still in its early and very challenging stages.

"Where some employers promise underground time to meet shift-boss and manager ticket requirements, often the minimum is offered, with graduates rushed through in an effort to get them back in the office," he said.

"This is definitely not the case with Macmahon - graduates become an integral part of the crew and are treated as a valued member of the labour force."

Macmahon's graduate program encompasses civil, mining and mechanical engineering, as well as non-engineering disciplines.

For more information, visit www.macmahon.com.au