



## Funds target LNG boom

### Gladstone will receive \$490 million ahead of LNG program

**T**HE Gladstone region and surrounds will receive \$490 million this financial year alone as extensive planning and spending is underway to prepare Gladstone and the Surat Basin for the LNG boom, Premier Anna Bligh announced.

"The multi-billion dollar liquefied natural gas industry offers incredible opportunity for Gladstone and the Surat Basin.

"My government is determined to harness that opportunity while protecting the environment and liveability.

"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 local people to ensure this doesn't happen with LNG," Ms

Bligh said.

The Premier said the Sustainable Resource Communities Policy was one of the key planning measures to help manage the LNG boom.

"This policy to boost infrastructure in regional and rural mining communities has been backed by a \$100 million fund. \$37 million has been provided for projects in Central Queensland and \$23.6 million for the Surat Basin.

"We've also announced an Urban Development Area for Gladstone. Located at Clinton, it's the first UDA outside of Brisbane. The site contains about 230 lots which will provide diverse and affordable housing.

"Another example of our forward thinking is the Port of Gladstone Western Basin Master Plan which maps out the future for part of Gladstone's industrial hear-

land over the next three decades. We're spending \$30 million to acquire a land corridor to accommodate LNG pipelines to Curtis Island.

"To help identify social infrastructure priorities, a study is being done in collaboration with Gladstone Regional Council - the Social Infrastructure Strategic Plan for Gladstone.

"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.

"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," Ms Bligh said.

This includes:

□ **Job generating infrastructure (including transport)**

Over \$160 million committed for job generating projects including \$8.1 million to develop the Stanwell to Gladstone Infrastructure Corridor; more than \$27 million towards general work around the Port of Gladstone, and \$1.2 million for a new Transport customer service centre in Gladstone.

□ **Education and skills**

\$7.1 million for a purpose-built Roma Energy

Training Facility to cater for skilling for the LNG Industry. A further \$1.79 million to upgrade TAFE facilities at Roma, Gladstone and Biloela to assist with the management of additional training requirements as a result of growth in these regions and \$6.9 million under the Trade Training Centres program to help young people in these regions gain relevant vocational skills.

□ **Community (including housing and social infrastructure)**

\$7 million for community spending including \$856,000 for the Gladstone South Community Hub, more than \$250,000 for a support service for young people, and \$893,000 to help with living arrangements for adults with a disability.

□ **Health**

Additional funding including \$3.3 million to complete the co-location of the community-based



Premier Anna Bligh.

health and mental health services to the Gladstone Hospital site and \$82,000 for Chronic Disease Indigenous Health.

"We are supporting the Gladstone and Surat communities with detailed planning and infrastructure programs so that they can derive all the benefits that flow from the LNG boom without undue pressure," Ms Bligh said.