

Skills Statement A Look Into The Future

12th July 2010

The skills needs of the future have been uncovered with the release of the 2020 Skills Statement by the Regional Economic Development Corporation (REDC) today.

The 2020 Skills Statement outlines the anticipated labour requirements until 2020 and addresses critical issues such as the likely locations in which employees' and their families will reside and the capacity of these communities to accommodate the additional population.

Anticipated employment for the major sectors in the Mackay Whitsunday Isaac region is discussed at length within the document with the necessary skills required listed along with the anticipated construction and operational workforce numbers.

REDC Economic Development Officer, Laura Sorensen, said that the Mackay Whitsunday Isaac region faces significant challenges created from significant opportunity and growth.

"Perhaps the greatest challenge facing the region is a shortage of skilled labour. All industries are finding it difficult to attract and retain workers. The 2020 Skills Statement identified the skills required in the future and highlights the importance of implementing strategies to attract skilled workers in order to meet the demand." Ms Sorensen said.

In the mining and mineral processing sectors, a workforce of 1766 employees will be needed for construction and more than 3000 ongoing to staff 11 proposed mining projects.

A further 11,000 workers will be needed for the construction of 6 proposed coal infrastructure projects and more than 7300 workers will be needed for ongoing operational positions.

The report also highlights the significant impact of the emerging Coal Seam Gas and Liquefied Natural Gas industries.

"It is positive to see that many of the major industries and sectors we've looked at are working to address the skills shortages however we identified that there was a real need for skills attraction within the retail and services industries." Ms Sorensen said.

Ms Sorensen said that with growth forecasted to continue and a significant number of developments being planned, innovative and practical solutions for the attraction and retention of staff are required to help local industries remain competitive.

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“For this reason, we are now in the process of developing several new skills attraction initiatives focusing on the gaps identified,” she said.

“Research shows that the most effective responses to skills shortages are targeted, that is the responses address the issues specific to individual industries. REDC has recognised that this is what the region needs and through industry collaboration has outlined strategies for implementation throughout the region’s major industries.”

The 2020 Skills Statement can be accessed via the REDC website www.mwredc.org.au.

Media Contact

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Notes

Photo attached

Left – Right: Communications and Research Officer, Ashleigh Howland and Regional Skills Attraction Manager, Laura Sorensen.