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MEDIA RELEASE

REDC Calls For Strategic Approach to Attract and Retain Skills Workers In Midst Of LNG Projects

With the announcement of LNG Projects taking place in Queensland, the Regional Economic Development Corporation (REDC) has called for a strategic approach to the attraction and retention of skilled workers.

The expansion of the Coal Seam Gas (CSG) industry and creation of the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) industry will provide Queensland with a welcome boost in construction and operational jobs.

In a region such as Mackay-Whitsunday-Isaac where skills shortages are a significant burden and unemployment remains well below the state average, impacts of the LNG industry simply cannot be ignored.

REDC Skills Attraction Project Manager, Laura Sorensen, is concerned about the potential impact of the LNG industry on the Mackay-Whitsunday-Isaac region.

“Our region is already impacted significantly by skills shortages and our employment rate remains well below that of the state. We simply cannot ignore LNG and the worsening of skills shortages that it promises to bring,” she said. “We must act now to develop strategies to attract and retain skilled workers and ensure that our region’s training programs are working at full capacity in order to mitigate these risks and minimise the impact”, she said.

“The world will be watching,” said Ms Sorensen. “The LNG industry presents us with a real opportunity to showcase ourselves as an innovative and progressive region. I’m confident we’re up to the challenge”, she said.

A number of job roles, both vocational and professional/para-professional, have been identified as requiring immediate attention to mitigate the risks associated with critical skills shortages affecting the development of the industry. These include Drillers and Drilling Assistants, Production



Technicians, Maintenance Technicians, Electrical and Instrumentation Technicians, Logistics Technicians, Petroleum, Chemical and Mechanical Engineers, Geologists, Geophysicists and Diesel Fitters.

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