

Please find below my answers to questions raised during the Senate Environment and Communications Reference Committee.

Question 1.

(Page 19: Hansard):

Senator REYNOLDS: I would like to talk to you about this for hours, because it is something that I am very passionate about. I ask you to take it on notice: this concept of how we can roll out training education in the TAFE and university sector—particularly transition skill training for new young fellows and women, but also for the existing workforce. How do we do that and incorporate it in what we are doing in Henderson?

I am very happy you have shown interest in this project as a vehicle for a transition in coal, a highly skilled blue and white collar work force supported by TAFE. TAFE have the facilities to show tradespeople how to extend their skills by aligning the training modules already completed, and allowing them to do the additional modules to qualify for a new skill level. For men and women already working in the industry, their experience can be counted towards any practical experience components.

The design and engineering components of the build are an important part for continual improvement in production and future developments of the 21st century. Universities should work with Hub Manufacturing Operators to build the next century designs and engineering strategies. This process could be supported with research and the development of incentives through tax concessions etc.

The process above is mirrored to the Henderson project.

Question 2.

(Page 20: Hansard):

Senator REYNOLDS: Thank you very much for that. I have just one quick question for either of you, if you are able to come back: what particular trade do you believe we should focus on in Collie? Because obviously we cannot necessarily do them all.

Mr McLaren: Can we take that on notice?

Senator REYNOLDS: Could take that on notice between Bunbury and Collie?

Mr McLaren: Yes, a question on notice. And it is good to see you actually recognising the ageing workforce as well. It is not just about the youth and the male and the female. We have a—

Senator REYNOLDS: No, it is not—transition—

Mr McLaren: We have a broad demographic and we need to look after all workers. We are happy for questions on notice.

The skill set's that would be of primary focus in Collie would be Plant Mechanics and Boilermakers. Also required and available in the South West are Mechanical Fitters, Sheet Metal Workers, Auto Electricians, Painters, Ladders, Riggers, Scaffolders and Electricians. There are also further opportunities in Design, Engineering, Software Development and Maintenance Planning etc. You can see where skills could be developed through a tri-partied approach with Management, white collar Workers and the University. If you require any further details of training and course streams to develop the skills needed, I can supply this on request via the AMWU National Training Officer.

Steve McCartney
State Secretary
AMWU WA Branch