


trend reverse. We have made no secret of the fact that job creation is our No. 1 priority. The addition of the Coordinator-General to the economic development portfolio cements this agenda.

There are currently 25 projects under active assessment by the Coordinator-General with a total capital investment potential of over \$58 billion, the potential to create almost 37,000 construction jobs and over 21,000 ongoing operational jobs. In the last three weeks we have seen action in major project facilitation. The Hummock Hill island resort, a \$915 million vision to transform a former grazing farm into a tourism drawcard, has received approval and could cater for 2,800 visitors and create 350 construction jobs and 700 ongoing jobs. The draft terms of reference were released for public consultation on the proposed \$1 billion export terminal on Balaclava Island, which could employ up to 800 construction workers and 100 full-time jobs ongoing. The Byerwen Coal Project was declared a significant project by the Coordinator-General. JFE Steel is a project partner of QCoal on this proposal, which could deliver \$1.5 billion worth of investment, 500 construction jobs and up to 1,000 operational jobs.

There is work to be done in Queensland and there is an opportunity to be realised. The government remains committed to driving economic development, building a stronger Queensland economy and creating more jobs, just like we said we would.

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Weapons Act

 **Hon. NS ROBERTS** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services) (9.49 am): Queensland has a rigorous weapons licensing system which balances the need for community safety with the legitimate interests of weapon users and owners. A review of the Weapons Act and Regulations commenced in 2008 and involved extensive stakeholder engagement. The review recommended significant changes to the act to make it more user friendly and, as a result, the act and its regulations were rewritten.

Following the 2009 election, and given the extensive range of proposed amendments arising from the first review, in 2010 I reconvened the stakeholder review committee to ensure that the draft rewritten act and regulations addressed the needs of stakeholders and the community. In August last year, I released a draft exposure bill and called for further submissions from the public on proposed changes to the legislation. The draft exposure bill attracted more than 2,500 online comments and submissions from individuals and organisations and raised a number of significant and legitimate issues on some of the proposed changes to the act. I am mindful that the consultation process undertaken to date has been lengthy. However, the issues raised during the public consultation justify additional consideration. In short, I want to satisfy myself that we have got the balance right between the need for modern and responsive weapons laws and the interests of law-abiding weapon owners.

Therefore, today I am announcing that the government will proceed with amendments to the Weapons Act in two distinct stages. The first phase will deal with those changes that are considered relatively straightforward and are arguably less contentious and have already been announced by the government. These changes include increased penalties for behavioural offences, regulation of possession of hand-held battery operated lasers, a requirement for weapons licence applicants to complete an approved firearms safety course, expansion of the current definition of bladed weapons in line with a national approach, tighter regulation of rifles designed to use high capacity magazines, clarifying that a person may possess a knife in a public place for genuine religious reasons, and removing the requirements for RSLs to licence and register permanently deactivated public monuments. Stage 2 will focus on the more contentious policy issues, such as the regulation of imitation weapons. I look forward to updating the House on the progression of these matters throughout the year.

Get Set for Work Program

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Employment, Skills and Mining) (9.52 am): The Bligh government is committed to providing jobs for Queenslanders. That is why we are investing \$13 million in the very successful Get Set for Work program. This targeted program gets in early to help young people who have either dropped out of school or who are at risk of dropping out find jobs and stay in them or improve their chances of doing so. All up, the investment is expected to help more than 2,000 young Queenslanders participate in 69 projects right across the state including six projects in North Queensland to help some 280 young people, nine projects in Central Queensland to help more than 210 people, 12 projects in Southern Queensland including places like Bundaberg and Maryborough to help some 320 young people and 42 projects in the south-east corner to help 1,520 young people.

All of these projects are run by local community based organisations who have established networks with employers and others within their communities. Organisations help participants develop key job skills including budgeting, how to search and apply for jobs, and how to plan for a future career. In just one example, last year SCISCO Career Pathways on the Gold Coast worked with 62 young people at Southport and Palm Beach. Almost 90 per cent of participants are now either earning or learning. I am also pleased to announce that this year SCISCO has expanded to a third location at Coomera and expects to assist 90 young people.