

SOUTH METROPOLITAN TAFE — AUTOMATION COURSES

Statement by Minister for Education and Training

HON SUE ELLERY (South Metropolitan — Minister for Education and Training) [1.03 pm]: Today I was pleased to attend with the Premier the announcement of two groundbreaking automation courses that will commence at South Metropolitan TAFE’s Munster campus from semester 2, 2019. This is the first achievement of the resource industry collaboration between the McGowan government, South Metropolitan TAFE and Rio Tinto, with Rio Tinto contributing \$2 million towards the new training program. The collaboration was announced by the McGowan government in October 2017 to build the skills and capabilities of the Western Australian workforce, preparing the workforce for industry advancements and innovation. The collaboration includes Rio Tinto and other major employers, such as Fortescue Metals Group, BHP and Komatsu, as well as representatives from TAFE, Scitech and the University of Western Australia.

The new automation courses are a first for Australia and will provide two portable, accredited qualifications recognised by industry. The WA mining industry is a global leader in automation and these new courses will allow us to maintain our competitive advantage as a leader in automation technology in Australia and ensure that Western Australians have the skills for the new jobs being created through technological innovation. A certificate II in autonomous workplace operations will be delivered as a pilot for vocational education and training students from Cecil Andrews College, Gilmore College, Baldivis Secondary College and Karratha Senior High School. There is also a course titled “Working Effectively in an Automation Workplace”, which is a skill set that trade-qualified workers and apprentices can use to improve their skills in automation.

I would like to thank Rio Tinto for its financial contribution toward the collaboration, and South Metropolitan TAFE for working closely with the resource sector to deliver qualifications that will benefit many industries that are experiencing technological advancement through automation.