



Hon Peter Collier MLC
Minister for Energy; Training and Workforce Development; Indigenous Affairs

34-14381

Hon Brian Ellis MLC
Chair
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Mr Ellis

Thank you for your correspondence dated 11 August 2011 regarding Petition No 114 – *WA jobs from WA resources*.

It is the State Government's first priority to provide opportunities for Western Australians to participate in training and the workforce.

This is one of the major goals in *Skilling WA – A workforce development plan for Western Australia* (Skilling WA), which was released in December 2010. Skilling WA is aimed at ensuring that the State builds, attracts and retains a skilled workforce for the future.

To this end, the State Government has committed \$33.4 million in its 2011-12 Budget to provide an additional 12,000 training places to develop Western Australia's workforce.

This builds upon a record number of 140,000 training enrolments in 2010. The commitment to training by this government has now seen us through the downturn in economic conditions as a result of the global financial crisis.

In the twelve months to March 2011 there has been a 20.6% increase in apprenticeship commencements and there are a record number of apprentices and trainees in Western Australia with over 40,000 currently in training.

As you may be aware, I have met with representatives from the steel fabrication industry, to discuss issues relating to local content on engineering and fabrication work and the implications for training in Western Australia.

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In those discussions, I affirmed my commitment to supporting growth in the number of apprenticeships and traineeships in the industry.

I will be discussing the *Skilled Local Jobs Bill 2011* with my Ministerial colleagues as part of the Government's consideration of the Bill and will take into account the matters you have raised in your correspondence.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Kind regards



Hon Peter Collier MLC

**MINISTER FOR ENERGY; TRAINING AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT;
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS**

25 AUG 2011

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