

## **Advanced Training To Secure Future Jobs for Queensland's Welders**

Together with the Queensland State Government and TAFE Queensland SkillsTech, Weld Australia is set to revolutionise welder training in Queensland. With the implementation of advanced technology and coursework, Queenslanders will be trained faster, safer and more effectively in the welding qualifications that are in high demand by the state's defence and manufacturing industries.

Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning Cameron Dick and Minister for Training and Skills Development Shannon Fentiman joined Geoff Crittenden (Chief Executive Officer, Weld Australia) at Parliament House this week to pledge \$800,000 worth of funding to the project.

This funding will enable the purchase of 10 state-of-the-art augmented reality welding simulators—the most advanced of their kind anywhere in the world. Five of these welding simulator units will be based at SkillsTech in Acacia Ridge, with the remaining five to be based in regional areas such as North and Far North Queensland.

According to Minister Dick, “We want Queensland welders to have the technology and coursework to meet the international welding standard increasingly being required for major defence and commercial projects, so we are planning for the future.”

Mr Dick said the investment would help address a national shortage of ISO 9606 qualified welders as identified by Weld Australia. ISO 9606 is the only Standard in the world which is accepted in both Europe and America. It is a simple test that assesses welding competency according to a specific weld procedure, based on a practical acceptance criteria

“Training with the augmented reality system is considerably faster than traditional welding training, enabling us to get experienced welders to the ISO 9606 level in reduced time and cost over traditional training methods,” he said.

According to Crittenden, “Queensland as a whole faces a significant shortage of qualified and certified welders. Without action, the state will be unable to meet future demand for defence, rolling stock, infrastructure and resources projects.”

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“In particular, Queensland’s welders must be properly trained and ready to deliver the \$5 billion LAND 400 project. This landmark project is an economic game-changer that is expected to create over 450 advanced manufacturing and engineering jobs across the state. With global defence giant Rheinmetall set to establish its Australian headquarters in south-east Queensland, local welders must be trained and qualified according to global best-practice to ensure they can reap the benefits of this huge defence industry program.”

“The combination of a welding curriculum based on global best practice delivered via advanced training technology will help ensure a strong supply of capable welders, ready to deliver the \$5 billion worth of defence industry work already awarded to Queensland.”

“Without a doubt, the successful implementation of this innovative training initiative will revolutionise welder training in Australia. It will raise the standard of welder education in Australia exponentially, putting our welder training on par with the best in Europe and America,” said Crittenden.

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### **Further Information**

For further information and interviews, please contact: Donna South (Marketing & Communications Manager, Weld Australia) on +61 0409 609 031 or [d.south@weldaustralia.com.au](mailto:d.south@weldaustralia.com.au)

### **Background Information**

#### **About Weld Australia**

Weld Australia represents the welding profession in Australia. Its members are made up of individual welding professionals and companies of all sizes. Weld Australia members are involved almost every facet of Australian industry and make a significant contribution to the nation’s economy. The primary goal of Weld Australia is to ensure that the Australian welding

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industry remains locally and globally competitive, both now and into the future. Weld Australia is the Australian representative member of the International Institute of Welding (IIW). For more information, please visit: [www.weldaustralia.com.au](http://www.weldaustralia.com.au).