



MORE NEEDED

- 1100**
earth moving equipment operators

 - 1100**
plumbers

 - 800**
concreters

 - 400**
civil labourers
- Source: CSQ

ON THE JOB: Connor Stafford, a fourth-year apprentice plumber, from Allanna Plumbing Services will have the skills for upcoming jobs.

Projects ramp up

GLEN NORRIS

High demand as 30,000 tradies needed

AN additional 30,000 tradies will be needed across Queensland in the next couple of years as \$46 billion worth of infrastructure projects ramps up.

Construction Skills Queensland (CSQ) has announced a \$37.6 million training package to meet the expected surge in demand for electricians, concreters, plant operators and plumbers.

CSQ chief executive Brett Schimming said Queensland risked having to import

skilled labour from interstate if it did not act soon to increase its training of tradespeople.

Tradies will be in hot demand in regional areas as a start is made on major projects including the Port of Townsville expansion, Rockhampton bypass and the Shoalwater Bay Military Training Facility.

In the southeast corner, the start of the Queen's Wharf and Cross River Rail

will soak up more skilled labour and make up for flat demand in the residential building sector.

CSQ estimates there will be a need for 800 more concreters, 1100 earth moving equipment operators, 400 civil labourers and 1100 plumbers.

"As we pivot to these big projects a variety of tradies including concreters, plant operators, electricians and plumbers are going to be in

high demand," Mr Schimming said. "The change is on now and we advise people to get going to get that trade ticket or licence."

"Top performing locations are predicted to be Townsville, Central Queensland and Far North Queensland and CSQ expects an increased level of training in these locations." The funding will flow to registered training organisations, including TAFE, to allow people to start appren-

ticeships or upgrade their skills with new trade tickets or licences.

Infrastructure Association of Queensland chief executive Priscilla Radice welcomed the training package but said a steady pipeline of infrastructure projects was needed in order for the right number of people to be trained.

"Uncertainty around projects and funding makes it difficult for companies to make decisions around apprenticeships and trainees," Ms Radice said.