

**TAFE Queensland reshapes for the future with help of O'Phee Trailers**

TAFE Queensland in the process of being restructured to better meet the current and future needs of industry, employers, workers and students. A suite of structural changes has been developed to help TAFE lift its performance across Queensland, while new independent institutes, known collectively as SkillsTech Australia, have been established to focus on specialised training for key industry sectors.

Sharon O'Phee, from Brisbane trailer manufacturer O'Phee Trailers, has been elected chair of the SkillsTech Australia Council by the Minister for the Department

of Education, Training and the Arts, Rod Arthur.

"I became involved in SkillsTech Australia through my previous position as President of the CVIAQ, which submitted a response with regards to the Queensland Skills Plan back in 2006," Ms O'Phee said.

"The Queensland Skills Plan outlines a policy framework designed to better match the supply of skilled labour to industry's needs and the economy's demands. It sets out 24 actions the Queensland Government will take to implement these policies."

As part of the project, the Queensland Government has established a state-wide Trade and Technician Skills Institute to lead product development and delivery throughout Queensland for automotive, building and construction, manufacturing and engineering, and electrical/electronics studies.

A key role of the Institute is to develop close links with industry and centres of excellence to ensure that vocational, educational and training qualifications address employer needs.