



Speech by

## Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Wednesday, 12 May 2004

---

### MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

#### Aviation Industry

**Hon. P.D. BEATTIE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.32 a.m.): The efforts of my government in developing an aviation industry are reaping reward after reward. Members have heard me detail how successful this has been with civilian operators of the likes of Virgin Blue and Australian Airlines. Today, this has now been further enhanced with developments in the defence sector.

Australia is to get two more long-range radar surveillance aircraft. This means four Boeing-made AWE&Cs will be fitted out in Queensland, creating an extra 170 jobs over three years. This is a reported boost of some \$800 million for the local defence industry. This fit-out is an ideal boost to the aviation industry in Queensland, given that the F-111 is to be phased out. The bonus is that this will be a high-tech, absolute state-of-the-art fit-out, which means that the technology and associated gains will be based right here in Queensland. This will be to our advantage and will mean that our growing reputation as the nation's aviation hub and its true centre of excellence will be put beyond doubt.

Originally the four aircraft were going to be modified—all in the US. But the decision to buy an extra two means that it is now economical for the four to be modified at Amberley. The first aircraft will arrive for modification towards the end of next year. Boeing ensured that the work came to Queensland based on the continuing aviation capabilities here; confidence in and availability of skills; and the momentum of development created here by the state government. At this point I want to thank the Minister for State Development, Tony McGrady, and the former Minister for State Development, Tom Barton, for working closely with Boeing and me in developing this aviation strategy.

This work will keep Amberley going past the loss of the F-111, which is due to be phased out in coming years. It will position Queensland to chase other large aircraft modification opportunities in both civil and defence areas. State Development and Innovation Minister, Tony McGrady, will meet David Gray, the Boeing Australia Managing Director, at lunchtime today at parliament.

Today's exciting news follows last month's announcement of a \$2 billion aircraft contract with links to Brisbane, with Qantas joining with European Aeronautic Defence and Space Company—EADS—to become the preferred tenderer on a defence contract. Coincidentally, I met with EADS officials in Marseilles while on my latest trade mission earlier last month. Qantas Defence Services and the military transport division of EADS have been chosen to provide the RAAF's fleet of new air-to-air refuelling aircraft. EADS A330 multirole tanker transport aircraft will replace the RAAF's ageing Boeing 707 aircraft. There will be five A330 aircraft. The basic aircraft construction will be carried out in Europe, while Qantas will install and integrate refuelling modifications for four of the five craft here in Brisbane.

In Queensland alone we have seen the aviation industry sector expand by over 4,200 jobs since 1998. Today's news and the obvious flow-ons means that this will be the platform for even more and more jobs in this exciting Smart State sector. This is what the Smart State strategy has been all about, and it is delivering. This growth rate is sustainable. Since 1998, jobs created in the Queensland aerospace industry are significant. I seek to incorporate those details in *Hansard*.

**Leave granted.**

These jobs include:

- Virgin Blue headquarters, engineering and training facilities (about 2000 jobs)
- Qantas 767 Maintenance Facility (680 jobs)
- EADS Australian Aerospace Helicopter Assembly Facility (100 jobs)
- Australian Airlines Operational Hub (300 jobs)
- National Jet Systems Maintenance Facility (70 jobs)
- Singapore Airlines Lear Jet Training Facility (15 jobs)
- Raytheon Logistics Centre of Excellence (67 jobs)
- Hawker Pacific Maintenance Facility (50 jobs)
- Boeing Regional Headquarters (800 jobs)
- Virgin Blue/Flight Safety Boeing Training International (50 jobs)
- Smith Aerospace Headquarters (55 jobs)
- Qantas Snapfresh Facility (230 jobs)

**Mr BEATTIE:** As I said, the Smart State strategies are working and that is proof.