



Speech by

## Peta-Kaye Croft

MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

Hansard Thursday, 15 March 2007

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### AVIATION INDUSTRY

**Ms CROFT** (Broadwater—ALP) (10.26 am): No-one here could be unaware that Queensland is rapidly becoming Australia's aviation and aerospace industry capital. This was brought home to me when I accompanied the minister for state development, John Mickel, and fellow backbenchers on an impressive visit to Brisbane Airport recently. Brisbane Airport is located within the Australia TradeCoast, which is the fastest growing industry and trade precinct in Australia.

Seventeen million passengers passed through Brisbane Airport last year, a figure that is expected to double by 2025. But there is far more happening at Brisbane Airport beyond the business of flying people in and out of our fair state. The Aerospace Park, for example, is home to Australia's only helicopter producer. The EADS/Australian Aerospace facility is currently assembling and testing the new Tiger Armed Reconnaissance helicopters and will also assemble 42 of the 46 MRH90 troop lift helicopters for the Australian Defence Force. Aerospace Park is also the base for heavy maintenance operations for Boeing, Virgin Blue, Jetcare and Alliance. These companies choose to be in Queensland because the Beattie government has created an environment in which they can prosper and grow, which means jobs for Queenslanders.

Since 1998 more than 6,000 jobs have been created across the state's aviation sector thanks to the Beattie government's strategy to position Queensland as a major aviation and aerospace hub in the Asia-Pacific. One of those people is Broadwater resident Mr Ken Crawford, who is the general manager of business development of Aviation Air. We also had the opportunity to visit the Da Vinci Centre for Aviation and Aerospace Training. This is the first airport based education and training precinct of its kind in Australia and one of the very few in the world. What is going on at Brisbane Airport represents only one part of the aviation and aerospace activity in Queensland. As the minister said, the sky is the limit for Queensland's aerospace industry.

Time expired.