



Speech by

Wayne Wendt

MEMBER FOR IPSWICH WEST

Hansard Wednesday, 20 May 2009

AVIATION INDUSTRY

Mr WENDT (Ipswich West—ALP) (11.32 am): I want to alert the House today to some good news for jobs and the economy in Queensland. Specifically, I want to talk about how a Queensland based aerospace engineering services company will buck the trend by being able to announce that it will create more than 70 new jobs in the state's aviation industry. Increases like this do not just come about by accident; rather, there has been a calculated effort by the Queensland government to offer strategic incentives to businesses to continue to expand and seek new markets. As a direct result of this investment by the government, we will see Tasman Aviation Enterprises remain and grow at the RAAF base at Amberley.

I had the pleasure of welcoming the Premier, the Treasurer and my parliamentary colleague the Minister for Transport, Rachel Nolan, to my electorate a few weeks ago to announce that, with the aid of some small incentives being provided, TAE has been encouraged to invest in further capital and job creation opportunities in Queensland, even in these tough economic times. Not only will 70 new jobs be created by TAE's continued investment; we will also see 184 existing aerospace technical staff based at its current workshop at the RAAF base retained and retrained. These staff will be upskilled to help maintain the Australian Defence Force's new Hornet and Super Hornet aircraft engines that will be arriving soon. Because these staff are currently working on contracts involving the maintenance and analysis of the old F111 engines, it was thought that they could be left high and dry had they not had the opportunity to reskill to the new aircraft.

The idea of providing TAE with a grant through the Queensland investment and incentive system and payroll tax incentives has now ensured that the company will stay at Amberley and will thus allow it to fulfil its 10-year Defence Force contract with the Hornets. I am not entirely sure if everyone here realises, but there are now approximately 16,500 people employed in the aviation industry and it should be recognised that much of this responsibility for the birth, development and growth of this industry can be directed to the previous Premier of the state, Mr Peter Beattie. In conclusion, I look forward to the phasing out of the old F111s and the introduction of the new Super Hornet aircraft and the benefits that this will bring to our Queensland and local economies.