



Speech By  
**Hon. Tim Nicholls**


**MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD**

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## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Trade and Investment Queensland

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade) (9.50 am): What a pleasure it is to support the Deputy Premier on his Royalties for the Regions program and to make those funds available. There are occasions where I actually have to push some more money on the Deputy Premier to make those funds available. I know in the electorate of Callide we will be looking very closely at the next round of grants.

In the years before the Newman government was elected, Trade and Investment Queensland was shifted from pillar to post. The former Labor government had no strategic direction or plan for Trade. It seemed to be a glorified travel agency for the Premier of the day. A frequent change of ministerial oversight—if I recall correctly from the report, seven ministers in 10 years—meant that the agency's goal posts were constantly being changed. When we came to government, TIQ needed a clear focus and a new approach. That is why in November last year I asked Geoffrey Thomas, Special Commissioner to North America, and the Hon. John Mickel, a former trade minister, to conduct an independent review of the operations of Trade and Investment Queensland.

Earlier this year the commissioners presented me with their review, containing 86 recommendations on how to transform and refocus the direction of the organisation to concentrate on delivering front-line services for business. Their main recommendation centred on TIQ becoming an independent statutory body to free the organisation of the confines of the departmental process. As recommended by the two commissioners, the Newman government committed to refocus TIQ to become Queensland's shopfront to the world. I am pleased to inform the House that the government has now decided on the make-up of the new Trade and Investment Queensland board—a board that will ensure TIQ is modern, flexible and can efficiently respond to the fast pace of international trade in the 21st century.

Like all effective statutory bodies, TIQ will have a diverse board with specialist trade knowledge in agribusiness, construction, education, tourism and financial services. The board will be chaired by Mark Stockwell, a well-respected businessman and property developer who is also known as a great Australian swimmer and triple Olympic medallist. I am confident that Mr Stockwell has the experience and, importantly, the drive and enthusiasm needed to oversee the important change taking place at TIQ. Mr Geoffrey Thomas, who is also Queensland's Special Commissioner to North America, has agreed to be deputy chairman. Mr Thomas has an innate understanding of what it takes to succeed on the international stage, with successful businesses in Australia, the US, Indonesia and Thailand.

We have also appointed to the board Professor Ian O'Connor, from Griffith University, and Josie Angus, who has a great passion for the development of regional and rural Queensland. As the Vice Chancellor and President of Griffith University, Professor O'Connor brings his considerable academic experience to the position. Ms Angus understands the challenges facing Queensland's rural

exporters, as the owner and operator of a pastoral company running 35,000 head of cattle across 400,000 acres in Central and Northern Queensland and the owner and operator of the Signature Beef brand of beef exports to over 20 countries throughout the world.

The board is supported by my Under Treasurer Helen Gluer and the Deputy Premier's director-general, David Edwards, ensuring there is a clear line of communication back to government. Creating a statutory body with an expertise based board will give TIQ the autonomy and flexibility it needs to operate in the 21st century. TIQ will move to a sector focused structure, where businesses will liaise directly with a team which understands the industry and our plans to grow a four-pillar economy. We will spend an additional \$14 million over the next four years to ensure TIQ is resourced to have greater capacity to identify in-market opportunities for Queensland businesses and, importantly, to attract investment by promoting a single uniform 'Brand Queensland' interstate and throughout the world. Each one of these appointees brings a unique set of skills and experience to the board, ensuring TIQ is equipped to handle the very diverse range of inquiries and tasks that come its way. I congratulate each of the board members and thank them for their willingness to serve Queensland.