Speech By

Hon. Annastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

NEXTDC Data Centre

Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.38 am): Last month's Advance Queensland Innovation and Investment Summit is already paying off for our state. The leads and connections between the local ideas and local, interstate and international investment are set in Queensland. The summit showed that generating more jobs and encouraging industry to establish and expand in Queensland was front of my mind and all of my ministers.

Therefore, I am pleased to announce today that NEXTDC Ltd is going to establish its second data centre here in Brisbane. This $75 million investment represents another commitment of confidence in Queensland's digital economy and the government's Advance Queensland agenda. NEXTDC must be applauded for its commitment and preference for Australian and, most importantly, locally based companies to deliver the majority of this vital project. That further job-generating offer includes building the data centre's high-tech prefabricated elements. The B2 site is located strategically on the CBD fringe, in Fortitude Valley, close to a major electricity substation and significant telecommunications and public transport infrastructure.

Significantly, it is close to the precinct that government is establishing in the landmark TC Beirne Building in the Valley. The construction phase of the data centre will support up to 200 new jobs on and off site and 100 permanent direct and indirect jobs when the data centre is operational. The new centre enables NEXTDC to meet robust demand for a secure, powerful facility to host critical IT infrastructure and support a diverse ecosystem of carriers and cloud service providers. Just yesterday NEXTDC was actively recruiting for a project manager to be based in Brisbane for this exciting project. This investment complements the government's positive agenda to drive growth, jobs and the better delivery of services through innovation and next-generation IT services.