



Speech By  
**Mark Furner**


**MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE**

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**ADJOURNMENT**

**Singapore Navy, Reception for RSS *Resolution***

 **Mr FURNER** (Ferry Grove—ALP) (2.11 am): Last Saturday night I had the pleasure of representing the Premier of Queensland aboard the RSS *Resolution*, a Singapore Navy ship docked at Hamilton in Brisbane. The ship had been docked there for a couple of days after doing training activities with the Australian Navy in Exercise Trident. Upon boarding, I was met by the commanding officer, Senior Lieutenant Colonel Ching Kim Chuan, who was such a pleasant host. He greeted me, along with a few of the other dignitaries, and we chatted in respect of the training exercise they had been involved in and enjoyed the evening reception with them.

The Singaporeans being involved in training with Australian defence personnel has been made possible due to the comprehensive strategic partnership which was signed in June 2015. Furthermore, an MOU related to military training was entered into in October 2016. This will provide significant opportunities for Queensland, with up to 14,000 Singaporean military personnel involved in training for up to 18 weeks a year over the next 25 years. No doubt members can imagine that as a result of the number of defence personnel from Singapore the injection into the Queensland economy alone will be quite significant. Commanding Officer Chuan indicated that the purchasing of local produce for the reception on the evening was of significance as well.

Singapore shall invest up to \$2.25 billion in the expansion of two military training facilities at Shoalwater Bay Training Area and the Townsville Field Training Area. I recall when I was up there in 2009 as part of the defence committee at the time on Exercise Talisman Sabre. I saw firsthand the economy being encouraged through the troops in Rockhampton at the time. We flew into the Rockhampton Airport and then flew out to the USS *Essex*. You could see the all-round benefit to the economy of having troops on the ground from these exercises.

The Department of State Development and Defence Industries Queensland, with the support of the Minister for State Development, Minister Lynham, have been working really hard to make sure Queensland businesses capitalise on defence business opportunities locally and internationally. It is encouraging to see the level of involvement of the Singaporeans—and no doubt all other international troops that come to Queensland to be involved in our bilateral training—in terms of not only their training methods and their ideas of how we train but also the economy of Queensland. It will mean more jobs as a result.