




Speech By
Hon. Curtis Pitt

MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Trade & Investment Queensland

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.43 am): I am pleased to inform the House that last month I launched the new *Advancing trade and investment: Queensland trade and investment strategy 2017-2022*. I table a copy for the information of the House.

Tabled paper: Queensland Government: Advancing Trade and Investment: Queensland Trade and Investment Strategy 2017-2022 [703].

I would like to thank the dedicated TIQ staff for their hard work in finalising the strategy and acknowledge that a lot of this work commenced during the time when the Deputy Premier had charge of the portfolio. Our new strategy allocates \$35 million over the next five years to deliver 22 initiatives. These initiatives are designed to cement Queensland's position as the most innovative and dynamic trading economy in Australia.

Queensland has always been a trading state and we are setting export records. After hitting a record annual total of \$54.1 billion in 2016, the value of Queensland's merchandise exports totalled \$15.8 billion in just the first three months of 2017. This is an increase of 49 per cent, or \$5.2 billion, on the first three months of last year.

The strength of Queensland's export sector is driving economic growth in Queensland and is underpinning the Australian growth story. The Palaszczuk government and I are motivated to drive the success of this exciting new agenda and we are already seeing results. Last month I signed a statement of intent with the President of the LGAQ, Mayor Mark Jamieson. This is the first step towards developing a memorandum of understanding for promoting and coordinating trade and investment opportunities for businesses in all of Queensland's regions and recognition of the important role that local governments play in terms of exports and local businesses getting into markets.

The strategy was launched in Brisbane with key stakeholders. Given the strong regional focus of this strategy, I also held events with Queensland exporters in Gladstone, Rockhampton, Mackay, Townsville and Cairns. This strategy supports Queensland businesses to improve their engagement with existing overseas markets and also to enter new markets which will in turn encourage more trading opportunities, create jobs and help revitalise surrounding regional centres. To do this we need to build on and innovate in our traditional industries like mining, agriculture, tourism and international education.

I have to say that our enterprising local exporters are grabbing new opportunities with both hands as business and consumer confidence rebound in Queensland under this Labor government. As we speak, five of Queensland's most pioneering mining technology companies are showcasing their innovative mining equipment, technology and services—METS—at a major global mining exhibition in Argentina. Arminera is an event that attracts the world's main mining leaders for three days of exhibitions showcasing the latest technological developments in mining machinery, tools, accessories, services and logistics. Argentina has recently implemented new policies to attract increased foreign investment, which means now there are more opportunities for Queensland's METS companies. Earlier

this year I welcomed a delegation from Argentina, including Argentina's mining secretary, which was attended by five of the businesses going to the exhibition. These Queensland companies have not missed a beat in heading straight to the heart of the action.

I look forward to strengthening Queensland's strategic relationships with Argentina and other key trading partners from around the world at the Heads of Mission visit to Cairns this weekend. Around 80 ambassadors and high commissioners from around the world will be touring Cairns and Far North Queensland this weekend as part of the Canberra Diplomatic Corps familiarisation tour.

Also underway right now is Hofex in Hong Kong, Asia's premier food and hospitality trade show. More than 20 Queensland businesses are attending this year's event. I would like to make special mention of Cairns chef Clinton Fang Yuen, who is responsible for giving us the increasingly popular Fang's Chilli Sauce. It is chilli sauce with bite. Clinton will give a special cooking demonstration at the Taste of Queensland networking luncheon to showcase the versatility of products available at Queensland's stall. When Hofex wraps up in Hong Kong later today, 11 of the 22 delegates will continue on to Taiwan for the second leg of the trade mission.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Brisbane based technology company Real Serious Games on sealing three agreements with organisations in the United Arab Emirates to enter the UAE market for the first time. They have won contracts to develop a comprehensive training program for Etihad Rail DB. Queensland Trade Commissioner to the Middle East Donna Massie has predicted the company will change training platforms in the region and provide a leading-edge solution globally.

It is clear that wherever in the world we look Queensland exporters are making inroads. As trade minister, I want to help them grow and prosper. This is a very exciting time to be in Queensland post the LNP economic recovery.