




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Manufacturing Industry

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (10.33 am): The first term of the Palaszczuk Labor government was a period of repair and recovery as we looked to rebuild Queensland following the grim years of the Newman LNP government.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DICK: The members opposite do not like hearing the truth. Our second term represents a new period of optimism and opportunity for Queensland, of economic growth and increasing business confidence, of regional investments and job creation. That is why I feel so privileged to rise in the chamber this morning to address this House as Queensland's first dedicated Minister for Manufacturing. I thank the Premier for the privilege of serving the government and the people of Queensland in that capacity.

I am genuinely excited by the innovation and creativity of Queensland's manufacturers, particularly in the area of advanced manufacturing. One area with great potential for Queensland is in defence manufacturing. I was delighted to visit Hilton Manufacturing at Wacol recently with Rheinmetall Australia's managing director, Gary Stewart, and the new Labor member for Jordan to inspect the BOXER combat reconnaissance vehicle—the vehicle at the heart of Rheinmetall Defence Australia's bid for the \$5 billion LAND 400 defence contract, recently publicly endorsed by Australian Victoria Cross winner Ben Roberts-Smith. If successful, Rheinmetall will build the required 225 vehicles in Queensland, delivering 450 jobs and a \$1 billion adrenaline shot to the Queensland economy.

Our government has been working closely with Rheinmetall to support its bid and I want to particularly pay tribute to the work of my predecessor as the minister for state development, the member for Stafford, for his important work in helping to bring this project to Queensland. Winning the LAND 400 contract will be a game changer for Queensland manufacturing through not only the significant supply chain and maintenance opportunities it will foster but also the significant export revenue it has the potential to generate. Rheinmetall has made it clear that this is just the first step in a long journey it is seeking to embark on with our state and I call on those members opposite and all crossbench MPs to reach out to federal members of parliament to ensure this important project comes to Queensland.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DICK: I look forward to those members opposite lobbying the LNP to ensure the BOXER comes to Queensland. The Premier made it very clear to me and to all members of the government that we will stand for the people and with the people of regional Queensland and look for ways to guide regional opportunities.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, resume your seat. The Manager of Opposition Business is making it difficult for me to hear the minister. However, Minister, it is difficult to provide any protection for you if you wish to be somewhat provocative.

Mr DICK: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The Premier has made it clear that we will be a government that supports all Queenslanders, particularly regional Queenslanders, to drive economic opportunity for Queenslanders wherever they live. That is why I was pleased to attend the recent reopening of the Swickers bacon factory in Kingaroy and to see firsthand the great story of the rapid recovery of that operation after its devastation by fire in November 2016. I was very pleased to hear the company openly acknowledging the great contribution made by the government through the department of state development to support both that recovery and the company's expansion plans. That expansion alone is expected to generate 66 new jobs. Mr Speaker, you may also recall that last year's budget included \$68.5 million for a new hospital in Kingaroy. Kingaroy of course sits in the electorate of Nanango represented by the Leader of the Opposition for whom I have two words: you're welcome!