



Speech By  
**Hon. Cameron Dick**


**MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE**

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Record of Proceedings, 8 March 2018

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**

**Port of Cairns**

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.49 am): The good news for Queensland keeps coming not just for the south-east but for all parts of the state, which is why I am pleased to report to the House that last week I was in Cairns to announce that the \$120 million upgrade of the port of Cairns has received the biggest and best green light in its history, thanks to the finalisation of the state's consideration of the environmental impact statement for the Cairns port improvement project. The project involves infrastructure improvements at the dockside and dredging to Trinity Inlet to enable larger cruise ships into the port. The Ports North project will allow a significant increase in the size and number of cruise ships and other vessels that can berth in the port of Cairns. What does that mean for Cairns and the far north? Up to 100 additional cruise ships per annum each year at the port of Cairns by 2031. That will triple the number of passenger days spent in Cairns each year.

**Mr Powell** interjected.

**Mr DICK:** I take the interjection from the member for Glass House. Let me put some history on the record. The member says it has taken three years. When he was the environment minister in Queensland, he was part of a government that wanted to promote putting 4.4 million cubic metres of dredge spoil on the Great Barrier Reef. That was his project. He was not the minister for economic development. He was not the minister for ports. He was not the minister for business.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members, there is a time to have these debates. There is a time to probe the government about its initiatives. Ministerial statements is not that time. I ask the minister to remind himself not to be overly provocative. Ministerial statements are for public reference and I ask the minister to rise to his feet.

**Mr DICK:** Thank you, Mr Speaker, I look forward to the questions later. What does this mean? It will triple the number of passenger days spent in Cairns each year due to cruise ship tourism, an increase of 225,000 passenger days each year by 2031. Just as important, this project will create jobs. The project will create up to 195 jobs during construction, with up to 2,700 ongoing direct and indirect jobs by 2031. Should federal environmental approvals be granted, construction can commence as early as the second quarter of the 2019 calendar year.

Jobs are something upon which those of us on this side of the House are absolutely focussed. These additional cruise ship arrivals and additional tourist visits to Cairns are a direct result of the hard work of you, Mr Speaker, as the member for Mulgrave, the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services in his capacity as the member for Barron River, and the member for Cairns who was a strong advocate for this project as a leading member of the Cairns business community before election to the parliament.

Those members worked very hard over many years to deliver this project in the far north. It is also a tribute to Ports North and to the Queensland Coordinator-General and his staff. I look forward to the Commonwealth Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act assessment being finalised so that construction and dredging can commence on this important project and, more importantly, jobs can start flowing to Cairns and the far north.