




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

Record of Proceedings, 20 March 2018

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Land 400

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.56 am): I am pleased to report to the House that in the battle for the Australian Army's next generation combat reconnaissance vehicle Queensland has emerged victorious. Last week, after a hard-fought three-year campaign, Rheinmetall Defence Australia was announced as the successful tenderer for the \$5.2 billion Land 400 phase 2 contract.

I am pleased to report to the House that the Boxer combat reconnaissance vehicle that will be built at the Redbank Motorway Estate will be proudly stamped 'Made in Queensland'. This project will create 200 construction jobs in the next three years and 450 long-term jobs in Ipswich from 2020. At the minimum we will expect this to deliver a \$1 billion boost to the Queensland economy in the first 10 years, but that is just the beginning. Once in service the Boxer will require maintenance and sustainment over 30 years.

We will also see opportunities for Queensland businesses to join Rheinmetall's global supply chain, delivering more jobs for Queenslanders. Already Rheinmetall has met with 211 local companies across Queensland. Queensland is also in a prime position for the upcoming Land 400 phase 3 contract, worth up to \$15 billion.

Let the parliamentary record show why Queensland has secured the hundreds of jobs that will result from this decision. As both the Prime Minister and the defence industry minister have said, this decision was based on the superior capability that Rheinmetall offers. As Minister Pyne told Melbourne's 3AW radio, if Rheinmetall had chosen the Northern Territory then the Northern Territory government would be celebrating, or, as the federal LNP member for Corangamite said on Twitter, if the Victorian government had secured a deal with Rheinmetall then Victoria would have won this contract. These LNP politicians are telling us that the critical date was not the Prime Minister's announcement on 14 March 2018; the critical date was actually 14 July 2017, when our Premier announced that Rheinmetall had chosen Queensland. From that point on we had the safest and best vehicle on our side. That is why we won.

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Leader of the Opposition, you are skating on thin ice. I warn all members that interjections that are designed to be disruptive to a member on their feet will not be tolerated. There are many avenues to put your points across. Remember that standing order 62 talks about ministerial statements being an opportunity to make a statement relating to matters of government policy or public affairs. I am listening closely to the members to my right and they are making statements that I believe are in line with the standing order. I warn all members that your interjections are not going to be tolerated.

Mr DICK: It was no accident that Rheinmetall chose Queensland. Victoria and South Australia both sought Rheinmetall as a partner. Victoria offered incentives and were short-listed by Rheinmetall along with Queensland. Ultimately, it was the Palaszczuk Labor government which secured Rheinmetall for Queensland. We got Rheinmetall by providing the right support. We got Rheinmetall by sending Minister Lynham to Germany to show Rheinmetall—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, I have only just given a ruling. The House is continuing to be unruly. I will start naming members and I will take action.

Mr DICK: Let me repeat: it was the Palaszczuk government which secured Rheinmetall for Queensland. We secured it by providing Rheinmetall with the right support and the right partnership agreement. Minister Lynham went to Germany to show Rheinmetall the commitment of our government to this project. We got Rheinmetall by showing them why Queensland has unrivalled automotive manufacturing capability. Now we have the Land 400 contract because the Palaszczuk government got Rheinmetall. That is the truth, as much as others want to deny it. Most importantly, the real winners out of this whole contract are the brave men and women of the Australian Defence Force who will get the best and safest vehicles to keep them protected and, just as importantly, the workers of Queensland who will get jobs for the future.