



Speech By  
**Hon. Cameron Dick**


**MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE**

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## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**

### **Manufacturing**

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (10.11 am): Manufacturing in Queensland is coming back. Last week I visited Incitec Pivot's facility at Gibson Island, where 400 workers are employed turning Queensland natural gas into ammonia, fertiliser and other products. Their feedstock is gas, and recent price increases were putting the company under pressure. That is why our government worked with industry to bring on more supply, to support Incitec Pivot and other major industrial users in Queensland.

The future of manufacturing in Queensland keeps getting brighter. I am pleased to report that manufacturing is now supporting over 170,000 jobs in Queensland—an increase of 6,000 jobs on the same period last year. Eighty-six per cent of jobs in manufacturing are full-time jobs.

Manufacturing plays an important role in the Queensland economy, contributing almost \$20 billion in added value and providing around a third of Queensland's exports. Our government recognises the great potential in Queensland's transition to advanced manufacturing. That is why our \$40 million Made in Queensland grants program offers matched funding of between \$50,000 and \$2.5 million to companies that can demonstrate economic improvement, including job creation from the equipment to be purchased.

As Queensland's manufacturing minister I was proud to recently convene my manufacturing ministerial council. The council draws together representatives from industry and their representative bodies, including employer organisations and trade unions, to provide advice to government on how best to manage the challenges and opportunities in the sector. That includes the way we promote the development of new industries as well as established manufacturing industries, which will include the appointment of a rail manufacturing leaders group. In 2017-18 the Queensland rail sector employed around 21,000 people and added around \$4 billion in value to the state's economy. Our government wants the rail sector to grow. It is growth that will be fuelled both by rising demand and by government policy including Cross River Rail and our decision to modify rolling stock in the great regional city of Maryborough.

Our government believes that manufacturing has a bright future in this state. Our message to the industry is that, while chaos reigns in Canberra, our government has a laser-like focus on jobs and on backing the Queensland businesses that employ.