




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Qantas, 787 Dreamliners

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.47 am): Just over two weeks ago the first of four Qantas Dreamliners to be based in Queensland under the Palaszczuk government's Industry Attraction Fund took off from Brisbane Airport on its inaugural nonstop flight to Los Angeles. The 'Q' in Qantas stands for Queensland. It is the place of its birth, the place where it grew up, the spiritual home of the flying kangaroo. The relationship between Queensland and Qantas is a special and evolving one—founded on its heritage and driven by its opportunities.

The manufacturing story in Queensland is dependent upon the skills of the workforce available to meet the sector's need. That is why our government warmly welcomes the announcement from Qantas today that they will be increasing their intake of engineering apprentices in Brisbane in 2019 by two-thirds, from 15 to 25, to meet future demand.

Qantas engineering apprentices are trained for four years in a range of fields including avionics, mechanical engineering, paint and trimming, signs and graphics, and during their apprenticeship they will acquire the skills they need to establish long-term careers in the aviation industry. Qantas has also advised that it will be transitioning 34 aircraft maintenance engineers who have graduated from the airline's apprenticeship program to permanent employment.

The opening of the new Dreamliner base enabled by our government will support 470 direct and indirect jobs and will create supply chain opportunities for local businesses. This is great news for Queensland and a vote of confidence from one of Australia's most prominent countries in the future direction of our state. It is also a further manifestation of the rolling dividend of our successful Advance Queensland Industry Attraction Fund, a fund which deserves bipartisan support. These apprenticeships are coming to Brisbane because the Dreamliners are here, and the Dreamliners are here because the Palaszczuk Labor government brought them here—just as we brought Rheinmetall to Queensland.

The Palaszczuk government supports our manufacturing industry—and it should be supported on a bipartisan basis—and is committed to driving the opportunities that continue to emerge in advanced manufacturing. The skills that the attraction of companies like Rheinmetall, Qantas, Boeing, Oji Fibre Solutions, Southern Oil and BrewDog will develop in our workforce will permanently lift the manufacturing capability in our state and position Queensland to continue to reap the dividends of the emerging opportunities in advanced manufacturing.