




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Qantas Pilot Training Academies; Aviation Industry

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.49 am): While governing from Toowoomba in late September the Palaszczuk government achieved many key milestones. However, the jewel in the crown rests with the decision by Qantas, our national airline, to build its new regional pilot training academy at Wellcamp Airport. I am pleased to report to the House that the 'Q' in Qantas stands for Queensland.

Officers from the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning worked tirelessly with Qantas, the Wagner Corporation and the Toowoomba Regional Council to secure this result for our state. This academy, which is set to open mid next year, will have the capacity to train up to 250 pilots a year and create up to 160 jobs in training and support roles. Building the academy itself will create 100 direct jobs and 300 jobs in the wider construction industry.

The hard work has not stopped. Right now my department is continuing to work behind the scenes to make sure Mackay is best placed to secure Qantas's second pilot training academy. More than 60 regional airports across the country applied to host these two academies, with nine regional cities making the short list. We have already landed the deal for Toowoomba and we are doing everything we can to do the same for Mackay.

It is no surprise that this government has a strong working relationship with Qantas. In late August Qantas announced a new Brisbane base to service four Dreamliner planes which will create 470 direct and indirect jobs. It is estimated that an additional 85,000 visitors will fly into Brisbane each year because of the Dreamliners and will spend more than \$27 million while they are in Queensland. The Dreamliner decision was made possible due to the government's \$105 million Advance Queensland Industry Attraction Fund and the \$10 million attracting aviation industry fund.

Queensland has a proven capability to provide high-quality support to the aviation sector. The recent launch of the *Queensland Aerospace 10-year Roadmap and Action Plan* not only demonstrates Queensland's commitment to aviation and aerospace but also signifies how serious our government is about building and supporting this industry for Queensland.