




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

Record of Proceedings, 31 October 2018

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Cairns South State Development Area

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.47 am): Last week I attended the Cairns Regional Projects Forum. It was great to see the member for Cairns, the member for Barron River and you, Mr Speaker, in your capacity as the member for Mulgrave. At that event I announced that the Palaszczuk government will declare an 856-hectare state development area south of Cairns to support the future growth and diversification of the Cairns economy. Our government wants the Far North to be able to participate in the economy of the future, including capitalising on the advanced manufacturing, biofutures, biomedical and defence related industries. We need a supply of industrial land to achieve this. Our projections indicate that without this special economic zone being declared, the Cairns region is at risk of having insufficient industrial land for the future. That will, in turn, limit economic opportunities in the region which will lead to fewer jobs.

Recent positive sales results of industrial land at the Woree industrial estate demonstrate that confidence in the Cairns economy continues to grow and that confidence is driving investment. Our government is determined to do what it can to keep it that way. If we are going to deliver the jobs of the future for Cairns in advanced manufacturing, high-end tourism and agriculture, it is important that Cairns and the surrounding region has sufficient industrial land.

As a result of feedback from MSF Sugar and local growers, around 60 per cent of the SDA will either be protected for rural purposes to support cane supply to the Mulgrave mill or be set aside for environmental purposes. That is welcome news for Far North Queenslanders who want to see the Mulgrave mill and agriculture reliant regional projects continue to thrive. Within the SDA, the Coordinator-General can facilitate investment through up-front detailed land use and infrastructure planning and offer a one-stop shop to streamline development approval applications. Decisions like declaring the Cairns South SDA—and I thank you, Mr Speaker, for your support of this project—are all about our government planning for the jobs for the future.