




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR IPSWICH

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Ipswich, Defence Summit

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (2.21 pm): It is always a great pleasure to talk in parliament about Ipswich and the investment in the region that will create more local jobs. As the member for Ipswich, I support projects and investments that create more jobs for people in Ipswich and put more money into my local community. The defence industry sector is loaded with such opportunities for Ipswich.

The recent announcement by the state government that Ipswich will be one of the two defence hubs in Queensland, along with Townsville, is a catalyst for driving momentum in defence industry investment. I am pleased that Ipswich will host the inaugural Queensland Defence Summit to be held on 20 November. This premier event will focus on defence manufacturing, integrated logistics and sustainment and will encourage local businesses to engage with industry experts and develop connections that will support success in the industry.

Some excellent speakers will be at the event representing the Defence Force, global defence industry companies, the state government and local government. They will provide valuable insights into the defence industry and share knowledge about how local businesses can build capabilities to be successful in the sector. The Queensland government will partner with the Ipswich City Council to host the event and they will be supported by the Australian Industry and Defence Network.

If we want to build Queensland's capabilities in the defence industry sector, events like the Queensland Defence Summit are vital for getting all the key players in the same room to network, exchange knowledge and build connections. Small to medium sized businesses in Ipswich are already benefiting from the defence industry investment in the area. Ipswich is fortunate to have the Amberley RAAF base, which is the site for air defence projects contracted to Boeing Defence, Northrop Grumman and TAE. There are new defence projects on the horizon, including the Military Vehicle Centre of Excellence at Redbank, where Rheinmetall will build its Land 400 military combat vehicles.

The defence industry in Ipswich is already worth about \$800 million in sales and \$600 million in exports. The defence industry sector is also a driver of advanced manufacturing jobs and that is especially favourable for Ipswich. Currently, manufacturing provides full-time employment to 14.2 per cent of the Ipswich workforce, making it the largest employer of full-time workers in Ipswich. We all know that underemployment is a growing problem, with too many casual or part-time jobs not providing the financial security that families need. More manufacturing jobs in Ipswich will mean more full-time jobs available for Ipswich people.

I am proud to be part of a Palaszczuk government that is driving investment in jobs in the Ipswich region. It is part of Anastacia Palaszczuk's promise to put Queenslanders first, which means building on our plans to deliver jobs, quality services for Queenslanders and providing opportunities for businesses to invest in Queensland. As part of that overall plan, I am pleased to see Ipswich playing a major role by hosting the Queensland Defence Summit on 20 November.