



Speech By  
**Andrew Powell**


**MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE**

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**STATE DEVELOPMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURAL  
INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**Report, Motion to Take Note**

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (3.39 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker, I beg your indulgence for one moment to acknowledge in the public gallery my father, Stephen Powell. Before members point it out, yes, he often gets mistaken as my older brother—and even sometimes my younger brother! It is great to have Dad in the gallery today.

I, too, rise to address the report titled *Inquiry into job creation opportunities in Queensland arising from the establishment of an Australian space industry*. Like the member for Theodore, I have a bit of a personal connection here. A lot of people still associate the space industry with efforts to get to the moon or even to Mars, but the reality is that for many decades now the focus has been on satellite technology. When I went to university back in the early 1990s, I was in one of the first classes that studied remote sensing and the use of satellite imagery to do a wide range of things. Also, it picked up a bit of astrophysics on the side. I guess I could have ended up in a career as an astrophysicist but instead ended up as a politician—

**Mr Whiting:** What a waste!

**Mr POWELL:** I take that interjection from the member for Bancroft. Even back then, the technology was quite astounding. For us as a state to be looking at opportunities to get in on that market is very important. To be blunt, we probably let the ball drop a bit and let some of the other jurisdictions in Australia grab it and run with it. As the member for Theodore mentioned, the Australian government launched a review into this and established the Australian Space Agency. It headed off to Adelaide. A lot of people might wonder why the Australian Space Agency ended up in Adelaide. It is not because they have a lot of space—it is partly British aerospace—but, as the committee rightly pointed out in its report, there are two options when it comes to launch facilities. As a number of speakers have already mentioned, and where Queensland is positioned extremely well, one is around the equatorial launch option, but Adelaide and South Australia in particular—there is a company down there by the name of Southern Launch—look at that polar orbit. It is important to have both bases covered.

The real opportunity that exists for Queensland is in that equatorial launch. As other speakers said, our proximity to the equator allows us to get those payloads into space far easier. On that basis, I note the committee's recommendation that the Queensland government develop siting options in regional Queensland for a launch facility to provide the launch component of the space industry supply chain. Equally important—and where constituents in my part of the world, in Moreton Bay and in the Sunshine Coast will really possibly benefit—is some of the supply chain work, where we can support the capability in the space industry. We can develop launch vehicles and develop the satellites themselves.

In the same way, consecutive governments in this state have increasingly pushed opportunities with the defence industry, which culminated in Rheinmetall being awarded the Land 400 contract and bidding for future contracts. Again, I acknowledge the work of 'Team Queensland', led by Ted O'Brien from the Sunshine Coast, in securing that. There are opportunities to build that supply chain across the whole length of the space industry—to ensure that we have the satellite capabilities in this state, that we use the advanced manufacturing that we are increasingly developing as a state, that we put them onto Queensland built launch vehicles and that, ultimately, we send them from a Queensland based launch site.

I commend the committee for its work and this report. I trust that the current Palaszczuk Labor government picks up the recommendations of this report and runs with them. If it does not, be sure that a future LNP government will. We will make sure that, in the same way that this state is now kicking goals when it comes to defence industries, we will start kicking some major goals when it comes to the space industry, too.