




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Defence Industry, Jobs

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.42 am): Defence means jobs, and today I am pleased to report how the Palaszczuk government is working to bring more defence jobs to Queensland. In line with our top economic priority—the creation of more Queensland jobs—and the Premier's election commitment, Defence Industries Queensland will now be known as Defence Jobs Queensland, to drive the state's defence industry agenda. This new name emphasises our commitment to supporting the creation of highly paid, knowledge-based defence industry jobs for Queensland—because jobs are what we want and jobs are what we are delivering for Queensland.

Construction of the \$170 million Military Vehicle Centre of Excellence at the Redbank Motorway Estate in Ipswich is underway, supporting 300 jobs a year over two years. When this facility is fully operational, it will deliver Boxer combat reconnaissance vehicles for the Australian Army and contribute \$1 billion towards Queensland's economy. The construction of this facility strengthens our chances of securing the next phase of the Land 400 project, which has the potential to create hundreds of additional jobs for Queensland. We are working to spread these jobs to all of our state. The recent creation of a Ministerial Council on Defence Industry and Jobs and the North Queensland and South Queensland defence advisory boards shows how we are working with regional Queensland to cut them into the defence jobs bonanza.

This week, we are keeping our 'khaki state' in the spotlight as a leading force in supporting industry and defence. Today, Queensland's Chief Strategic Defence Adviser, retired Lieutenant General Peter Leahy, former head of the Australian Army, is flying the flag for our government and the state's burgeoning defence industries at the Australian Defence Magazine Congress in Canberra. This major defence industry conference has evolved into a key event in the defence calendar, attracting over 600 delegates each year. Our government is making the most of this national event by showcasing Queensland at the conference so we can advance our mission to create more manufacturing jobs in Queensland.