




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Land Forces 2020

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.49 am): I am pleased to report to the House that Queensland's drive to claim the title of defence capital of Australia continues to gather momentum. The latest in a series of successes comes with the news that Land Forces 2020, the pre-eminent showcase for land defence forces throughout the Asia-Pacific region, will be held in Brisbane next year. When it was last held in 2018, Land Forces attracted more than 15,000 visitors and exhibitors to South Australia. Participants included 624 companies from 26 countries, and the event attracted 74 official defence, trade and industry delegations.

There is even greater reason to believe that Land Forces 2020 will be bigger and better in our state. We last hosted the event in 2014, with South Australia claiming the next two conferences in 2016 and 2018. The return of Land Forces to Queensland is both a recognition of our prominent position in the defence sector and a huge opportunity to capitalise on that position and expand our influence. Hosting Land Forces 2020 can only highlight the merits of Queensland to deliver the \$15 billion Land 400 phase 3 contract to build infantry fighting vehicles for the Australian Army.

Defence is big business for Queensland. In 2017-18, \$9.55 billion in defence contracts were awarded to companies based in Queensland, more than double the value of the previous year. It is our aim to ensure that Queensland is positioned to secure a significant proportion of federal defence contracts coming up over the next decade. Attracting a showcase event like Land Forces 2020 confirms that Queensland is firmly in the driving seat to secure that work and the long-term, high-value jobs that go with it.