



Speech By  
**Hon. Cameron Dick**


**MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE**

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Record of Proceedings, 1 May 2019

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Manufacturing, Jobs**

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (11.19 am): In question time today the member for Glass House made claims about a reduction in employment in manufacturing in Queensland. I refer the honourable member to the Queensland Government Statistician's most recent analysis of employment data, for the March quarter 2019. In that respect I table a note on employment by industry for the March quarter 2019 prepared by the Queensland Government Statistician's office.

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Treasury, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, document, undated, titled 'Employment by Industry, March quarter 2019' [\[667\]](#).

The Queensland Government Statistician notes that there has been a 5.3 per cent increase in manufacturing jobs in Queensland year on year, compared to 3.2 per cent at the national level. This means that Queensland's manufacturing sector employs 173,400 persons—an increase of 8,700 persons compared to the March quarter 2018.

I am aware of a recent report on manufacturing jobs in the *Courier-Mail* that claimed there had been a decline in manufacturing jobs. I am advised that the report in the *Courier-Mail* relied on a single raw data point that is not adjusted for seasonal variation, which can fluctuate from one quarter to the next. The ABS specifically recommends against using raw data points when reporting labour force data and instead recommends that best practice is to use seasonally adjusted and trend data. Notably, the ABS has advised that for the March quarter flooding in Townsville in February 2019 resulted in a major disruption to the operation of the labour force survey in Queensland and forced the ABS to impute the sample for Townsville.

The reality is that the Palaszczuk Labor government has created even more manufacturing jobs and has more manufacturing jobs in the pipeline. As the Premier advised the House this morning, we are working with Rheinmetall to construct the \$170 million Military Vehicle Centre of Excellence at Redbank to deliver the Australian Army's biggest ever defence contract. 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, growing the sector even further. The government has also invested \$40 million into the Made in Queensland program, helping manufacturers across the state. We are also investing \$30 million to create three new manufacturing hubs—in Cairns, Townsville and Rockhampton—to support regional manufacturers with training and development.

I would caution members of the LNP against intentionally or unintentionally misleading the House by repeating in this House claims about a reduction in manufacturing jobs in this state.