



Speech By  
**Hon. Cameron Dick**


**MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE**

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**

**Costco; Guthalungra Aquaculture Project**

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.41 am): This morning, along with the member for Ipswich, I was delighted to represent the Premier at the opening of Costco's new retail warehouse at Ipswich. This new \$50 million, 14,000-square-metre retail outlet is a huge vote of confidence in the city of Ipswich and in the economy of Queensland. Importantly, this warehouse will boost choice and competition, delivering substantial savings to consumers in South-East Queensland. Even more importantly, this new retail centre will deliver new jobs for Queensland. Ninety construction jobs were created during construction, and 280 full-time-equivalent operational jobs have been created for workers in South-East Queensland.

This morning I was delighted to meet with Costco members and local residents Jasmine and Rebecca, who had waited patiently since 11 o'clock last night for the warehouse to open. Just as importantly, I met some of the new Costco workers. I also met many food producers and manufacturers who now have input into Costco's global supply chain.

That is not the only part of Queensland where new jobs are coming from new investments. On 26 April I declared the Guthalungra aquaculture project near Bowen to be a prescribed project under the State Development and Public Works Organisation Act. As my colleague the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries says when he travels the state fighting for more jobs in our regions and the bush, his vision is to make Queensland the aquaculture capital of the world.

This prescribed project declaration for Pacific Biotechnologies means the Coordinator-General can draw on his key powers to ensure the project gains timely approvals. The project has the potential to support up to 230 jobs during construction and up to 220 jobs once operational. The project comprises 259 aquaculture ponds over 260 hectares and a 370-metre seawater storage pond. The project also proposes a 47-hectare discharge remediation area, freshwater storage pond and water reticulation, and food-processing facilities. By prescribing this project we are ensuring the Whitsunday region can start supplying up to 2,700 tonnes of their famous black tiger prawns as soon as possible. It is planned that prawns will grow using a world-first bioremediation technology created in conjunction with James Cook University, with algae to be used to remove nitrogen and phosphorus from wastewater so the facility operates at zero net discharge. This project is a great Queensland story. It is also an example of how the Palaszczuk Labor government is supporting regional Queensland by creating more regional jobs.