



Speech By  
**Hon. Cameron Dick**


**MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE**

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Record of Proceedings, 20 August 2019

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Aerospace Industry**

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (10.00 am): The Palaszczuk government is aiming high to capitalise on the growing global demand for aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul services—MRO—and to deliver more high-value knowledge-based jobs for Queenslanders. Last week, global aerospace giants, including Qantas and Virgin Australia, attended a Palaszczuk government industry round table to develop plans to deliver more jobs for the MRO market. As a result of last week's forum, I have asked retired Air Vice-Marshal Neil Hart AM, Queensland's Strategic Defence Adviser for Aerospace, to lead an MRO task force to help bring more MRO jobs to Queensland.

Deloitte Access Economics reports Queensland's aerospace sector could grow to support 6,200 jobs over 10 years, and our state is already kicking goals when it comes to defence, aviation and aerospace. In Cairns, thanks to funding from the Palaszczuk government's Jobs and Regional Growth Fund, Hawker Pacific has increased the size of its hangar to allow for heavy maintenance work from across the Asia-Pacific. Meanwhile, in Townsville and across South-East Queensland, Boeing, Airbus and Northrop Grumman maintain a range of aircraft. TAE Aerospace will be investing \$50 million to develop a new facility at Bundamba to expand their capacity to maintain and supply parts and components for Australia's fleet of F-35 joint strike fighters.

Our government is also skilling Queenslanders for work, with a focus on aerospace. We are supporting a pipeline of highly trained technicians and pilots through Aviation State High School, and we are looking to the future with new Qantas pilot training academies in Toowoomba and Mackay. Industry leaders have told us Queensland has great MRO capability, and there is opportunity for more growth. That is why our government has a 10-year aerospace road map and action plan and it is also why a Queensland government delegation will travel to Singapore next month to promote our state's capabilities at the MRO Asia-Pacific trade show. Queensland will be the only Australian state represented at the exhibition and conference, and Queensland will also host the first ever MRO Australasia event in Brisbane in March 2020. The Palaszczuk government is committed to building an economy that is diverse and dynamic, and growing our strong defence and aerospace sectors is key to that goal.