




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Toowoomba; Infrastructure; Qantas Group Pilot Academy

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.45 am): I am pleased to report to the House more good news when it comes to jobs in regional Queensland. Two weeks ago in Toowoomba I helped turned the sod for the new Qantas Group Pilot Academy, a facility which is taking shape thanks to the Palaszczuk government's Advance Queensland Industry Attraction Fund. The academy, which is based at Wellcamp airport, will create up to 100 direct jobs over the construction period with the building of a hangar, classroom and student accommodation facilities and more than 300 additional jobs in the broader construction sector. Up to 160 ongoing jobs in training and support are expected as the academy scales up to its full capacity of 250 students.

We worked harder than any other state to secure not one but two Qantas training facilities, the first of which is at Toowoomba. Qantas has announced that a second academy will be located in Mackay. The academy at Toowoomba builds on the growing reputation of Wellcamp airport and the vision of the airport's owners, the Wagner family. Facilities like the Qantas Group Pilot Academy do more than bring jobs to our state: they grow skills, capability and industry confidence in our regions. The academy is further proof that the Palaszczuk Labor government is committed to delivering more jobs for Queenslanders in the private sector.

We are also delivering more infrastructure jobs, as outlined in the recent Building Queensland Infrastructure Pipeline report. This is part of the government's infrastructure policy reforms which have helped drive infrastructure underspend to near zero compared to a 15 per cent underspend under the previous Newman LNP government. The pipeline report shows that over 70 per cent of proposals received or initiated by Building Queensland have progressed to further stages of development since the previous pipeline report, including six funded projects. This includes stage 3A of the Gold Coast Light Rail project, to which our government has committed \$351 million. Our government says to Scott Moreton, 'Stop dithering. Stop dudding Queensland. Fund this project and give Queensland our fair share.'