




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

Record of Proceedings, 5 September 2019

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

North Queensland, Defence Industry Jobs

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.47 am): As the people of Townsville and the north of our state know, defence means jobs. Townsville is the greatest garrison city in the Commonwealth and the Palaszczuk Labor government is determined to make sure even more North Queenslanders benefit from the defence industry opportunities this presents.

At the same time, we also want to help renew the Townsville CBD to build our new knowledge precinct here to drive higher wages and better jobs. That is why on Tuesday our government was proud to sign on to the Smart Precinct North Queensland initiative where we will establish our government's new \$5 million defence industry hub in this innovative new industry precinct in the Townsville CBD. Our new defence hub will operate as a one-stop shop for advice and expertise to help local companies and businesses get into the regional supply chain for defence industry logistics, maintenance and sustainment.

What is more, the defence hub will be the anchor tenant for the smart precinct, leading the way to transform the old Townsville Transit Centre into a new centre for knowledge jobs in North Queensland. It is a new future for North Queensland where we will work with the Townsville City Council, the Burdekin Shire Council, the Hinchinbrook Shire Council, James Cook University, CQUniversity, Developer North Queensland and CoderDojo.

I can inform the House that a Defence Jobs Queensland staff member is already based in Townsville to work with hub staff and more broadly on the delivery in this region of our government's defence and aerospace 10-year road maps, working hand in hand with our dedicated North Queensland Defence Advisory Board. It is another example of how the Palaszczuk Labor government is determined to make sure North Queensland gets its fair share of the jobs of the future.