




Speech By
Christopher Whiting

MEMBER FOR BANCROFT

Record of Proceedings, 28 February 2019

**STATE DEVELOPMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURAL
INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Report and Information Papers

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (10.14 am): I lay upon the table of the House report No. 23 of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee titled *Inquiry into job creation opportunities in Queensland arising from the establishment of an Australian space industry*.

Tabled paper: State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee: Report No. 23, 56th Parliament, February 2019—Inquiry into job creation opportunities in Queensland arising from the establishment of an Australian space industry [273](#).

The report presents a summary of the committee's inquiry, including consideration of the space supply chain, Queensland's areas of competitive advantage within that supply chain and opportunities for Queensland businesses and workers as well as opportunities for regional Queensland.

During the inquiry, the committee visited rocket manufacturers in Queensland and witnessed the first commercial suborbital launch in Australia. The committee held a hearing at the University of Queensland and met with key researchers in the launch and earth observation sectors and visited the Australian Centre for Robotic Vision at the Queensland University of Technology. The committee also travelled to the Australian Capital Territory and met with government, academics, space scientists and other stakeholders.

This was a significant inquiry for Queensland. It demonstrated that Queensland is remarkably well placed to fill many niches in the space supply chain owing to its geographic advantages, skilled workforce and business and research expertise. Queensland already has companies and individuals that are part of the space industry and there is potential to build on Queensland's existing capabilities to create more opportunities within the space industry across all of Queensland. This report will show that the space industry is a natural fit for Queensland.

Already there are 30 companies in Queensland that are active in the space industry and there are 126 space related organisations with a presence in Queensland. The Deloitte report states that the space industry employs 2,000 Queenslanders and contributes half a billion dollars in value-adding to the Queensland economy. Australia's space industry is worth approximately \$4 billion annually to our national economy and employs about 10,000 Australians. The committee made a number of recommendations in its report in regard to ways in which the Queensland government could encourage further participation in the space industry, create new Queensland jobs and extend space industry opportunities to regional Queensland.

I also lay upon the table of the House the committee's papers Nos 1 and 2.

Tabled paper: State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee: Information Paper No. 1, 56th Parliament, November 2018—What is the Space Industry [274](#)?

Tabled paper: State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee: Information Paper No. 2, 56th Parliament, February 2019—What does the space industry require [275](#)?

These are information papers prepared during the inquiry that describe the space industry and what it requires. On behalf of the committee I thank those individuals and organisations who made themselves available to meet with the committee, those who attended public hearings and those who made written submissions. I also extend the committee's thanks to the officers of the department for the assistance they gave during the inquiry. I would like to thank the members of this committee for their commitment and approach to this inquiry. I commend the report and papers to the House.