




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MACKAY

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Mulherin, Hon. TS; Space Industry

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (2.33 pm): I start by conveying my sincerest condolences to my good friends the Mulherin family on the passing of Tim: to Erin, the love of Tim's life and his best friend; to Declan and his partner, Kirsty—Tim was so proud of his sporting prowess, especially in hockey; to Liam, who has the luck of the Irish—Tim always thought he was more Irish than the Irish; and to Rory, a wonderful young man who Tim used always to think of as the baby. He loved and cherished each and every one of them.

The Palaszczuk government is leading Queensland through the health pandemic and has a plan for economic recovery, because we always have been forward looking with our eye on Queensland's future. Recently, Abbot Point was announced as Queensland's preferred site for a potential space launch facility. We are getting on with the job of delivering for Queensland now and in the future. The Labor Palaszczuk government has an \$8 million space strategy that will support economic growth and recovery for Queensland industries. We are continually adding and supporting new industries to our economy, because we know that this is the way of the future.

Why Abbot Point? Because of the clear skies. The launch sites are best placed on a coastline—launching eastward is best, to allow rockets to accelerate with the earth's rotation—in proximity to the equator. The site was identified by PwC Australia as a potential site for orbit rocket launches, and it ticks all of the boxes. The significance of the announcement of the preferred site near Bowen was not missed by students at Mackay's Beaconsfield school. Year 5 students were so excited when I was telling them about it. One young fellow said to me, 'You know, I dream all the time about working in the space industry but my mum keeps saying, "No, you have to move overseas and work at NASA." I'm going home to tell her. I'm going to drive up the road and say to them, "I'm here to work."'

By 2036 the proposal of this new launch site at Abbot Point has the ability to generate up to 6,000 jobs. Students sitting in our schools now are planning their aviation careers to work in regional Queensland. We are delivering for regional Queensland. We know that our world is changing at a rapid rate and that we must be agile and ready to jump on board the next opportunity to grow the jobs of the future. Our apprentices now working so hard in heavy industry in Mackay are the potential workers in the engineering space industry.