




Speech By
Michael Healy

MEMBER FOR CAIRNS

Record of Proceedings, 18 February 2020

ADJOURNMENT

Cairns Manufacturing Hub

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (7.28 pm): Last year I had the pleasure of attending, along with two Palaszczuk government ministers, the opening of the Cairns Manufacturing Hub. The Cairns Manufacturing Hub is one of three hubs being established as part of the state government's \$30 million initiative to bring together Queensland government, local government, industry, research and educational partners to collaborate to grow regional manufacturing. The hub is focused on bringing together partners to accelerate the growth of specialised manufacturing industries in regions and develop a strong local manufacturing ecosystem which in turn will attract investment and drive job creation which, as we know, is a fundamental goal of the Palaszczuk Labor government.

The Cairns hub is located within the Cairns TAFE campus and will work closely with TAFE Queensland, universities and schools in Cairns and surrounding areas to build capability in science, technology, engineering and maths learning and skills. In particular, the Cairns hub has flagged working with programs such as the Gateway to Industry Schools Program to promote STEM learning and support long-term development of a highly skilled workforce to support and meet the needs of the advanced manufacturing sector in North Queensland.

In Cairns our local Cairns State High School is running a very successful Gateway to Industry program, partnering with the aerospace industry which provides students with learning opportunities in the aerospace industry through curriculum offerings, links with local and international industry partners, awards and recognition, direct entry opportunities to university and, most importantly, extension work placement. Staff also access additional professional development and networking supported by the Gateway program.

The opening of the Cairns Manufacturing Hub was a fulfilment of yet another one of our election promises and continues to see our government deliver on facilities and services that will strengthen and grow regional manufacturing, skills and jobs—and we know how important that is. The Cairns manufacturing sector contributed \$787 million to the Queensland economy in 2017 and 2018 and as of the September quarter 2019 employed over 6,300 people locally.

The Cairns Manufacturing Hub will initially focus on the growing marine, aviation and food export sectors. It is already delivering outstanding results, such as developments towards advanced fibre composites maintenance, particularly for superyachts; the delivery of advanced welding; and funding of \$650,000 over three years to support the FNQ Food Incubator, which is a group of local food experts collaborating to support early-stage food processors in Far North Queensland. This is about jobs; it is about creating an environment in which jobs will flourish. I am very proud to be standing here representing the people of the great city of Cairns.