




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

Record of Proceedings, 22 April 2021

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Regional Queensland, Jobs and Investment

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Investment) (9.45 am): I am very pleased to share with the House yet another example of the Palaszczuk Labor government's unwavering commitment to creating more jobs and attracting more investment to regional Queensland. This comes after my visit last week to Bundaberg, the home of the mighty Queensland macadamia nut and also home to the mighty state Labor member for Bundaberg, Tom Smith, who joined me to announce support for the expansion of the world's largest macadamia processor. Through our \$175 million Jobs and Regional Growth Fund, our government is backing Marquis Macadamias' \$13.3 million expansion as well as the 40 new Wide Bay jobs it will create and the 120 local jobs it will safeguard. The expansion will see Marquis's processing capacity increased from 12,000 tonnes to 15,000 tonnes each year, putting more Queensland macadamias on supermarket shelves around the world.

Australia has one of the largest macadamia industries on the planet and Queensland is the biggest contributor to that, with orchards stretching from the Glass House Mountains to Emerald and Mackay. With the world going nuts for our macadamias, Marquis's expansion will ensure the 350 Aussie growers the company works with, including plenty of Queensland growers, can take a bigger bite of the export opportunities presenting themselves.

While the COVID-19 pandemic has thrown up many challenges, Queensland's traditional industry strengths like agriculture, food processing and manufacturing have been our economic bedrock during this difficult period. Our support of increased private investment like Marquis Macadamias' expansion will ensure the Queensland economy continues on its strong upward trajectory as we unite and recover from the virus and its impacts. To put it simply, our investment will grow the Bundy industry and Bundy jobs. This growth will benefit hundreds of local families across the Wide Bay, which is an outcome we can all be proud of.