



Speech By  
**Hon. Cameron Dick**


**MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE**

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## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Exports

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.47 am): Queensland's focus on being an outward-looking, trade focused state has never been more important than as we emerge from COVID-19. Our strong health response means that we have not just weathered the storm but have come out of the pandemic stronger than when we went into it. It is a position that is the envy of many other economies, both domestically and internationally.

As the world opens up, our government is determined to ensure that Queensland maintains and extends our competitive advantage. Queensland businesses that want to sell to the world are critical to our economic recovery and growth in our regions. Nearly 7½ thousand exporters, or about 40 per cent of our state's total, are based in regional Queensland. Our exporters have risen to the challenge of COVID-19 by diversifying into new markets. They are developing new products and strengthening relationships with customers in some of the toughest of times.

In the past financial year, exports to four of our largest and nearest export markets—India, Vietnam, Indonesia and Thailand—all rose by a combined \$464 million. In the same period, our exports of copper rose by \$425 million, or 23 per cent, in value, reflecting increased demand for our minerals, with exports of zinc and lead also up. This is further evidence of how highly the world values Queensland's products and services.

To recognise the excellence of our exporters, I was able to join the Premier for the Premier of Queensland's Export Awards recently. From 160 applications, 36 companies across 13 categories were selected by judges as finalists. That is more applications than any other state and territory, showing just how much export means to Queensland businesses.

Our Exporter of the Year is Next Level Racing from Southport. Next Level designs and manufactures racing simulators and flight simulators. Among their customers they count Bosch, Ford and the organisation that safely took mankind to the moon, NASA. Next Level Racing exports to 50 countries. Next Level Racing is an example of the incredible diversity of products and services that Queensland exports.

The world is seeing what we have to offer right now through Expo 2020 Dubai. Queensland is showcasing its future focused opportunities to a global audience at the world expo which started on 1 October after a long delay due to COVID-19. Queensland is part of the Australian pavilion at this amazing event. Of course, the Brisbane 2032 Olympics will be our centrepiece, but we will also be highlighting our world-class capabilities in emerging global sectors such as renewable energy and mobility solutions. Business leaders and decision-makers from around the globe will be present and will see Queensland on display.

The single best way to protect our state's exporters, regional economies and Queensland jobs right now is for as many Queenslanders as possible to get vaccinated as quickly as possible. Our message to Queenslanders is this: do not hesitate; vaccinate.