



Speech By  
**Hon. Cameron Dick**


**MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE**

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Record of Proceedings, 17 November 2021

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### France, Trade

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.45 am): From our earliest days, Queensland has been an outward-looking, trade oriented state. Our major trading partners are in the Asia-Pacific region, but we also have important relationships bringing inward investment from around the world, including from Europe. Yesterday I was pleased to address the French-Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry to celebrate the ongoing trading and commercial relationship between Queensland and France.

Between 2015 and 2020, France's total investment stock in Australia almost doubled in value to \$42.7 billion as at the end of December 2020. French stock of foreign direct investment in Australia was valued at \$12.1 billion in 2020, representing Australia's 13th largest foreign direct investment source market. Major French companies with a presence in Queensland include Total Group, Thales, Veolia, Lactalis and Egis. We welcome companies like Neoen, building Australia's largest solar farm near Chinchilla with our publicly owned renewable energy company, CleanCo.

That relationship with France has been based on friendship and respect for more than 100 years. Sadly, that relationship has been put at risk by the Prime Minister, Scott Morrison. Nations will always act in their own interests. Everyone knows that, but there was a time in our country, Australia, when we would always treat our friends with dignity and respect. Enter Scott Morrison. Scott Morrison's fumbling of the future submarine program—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Everyone has an opinion. Please keep it to yourselves.

**Mr DICK:** Scott Morrison's fumbling of the future submarine project has left the French President labelling him deliberately dishonest—

**Mr Lister** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Southern Downs, you are warned under the standing orders.

**Mr DICK:** And the American President calling him clumsy.

**Mr WATTS:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. There have been multiple interjections of unparliamentary language from the member to my left.

**Mr SPEAKER:** That is my job, member for Toowoomba North; not yours.

**Ms Grace:** It's not like school.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, member for McConnel. You are warned under the standing orders. It is just like school.

**Mr DICK:** When the heat was on, what did Scott Morrison do? He leaked private text messages. For what purpose did he commit this diplomatic offence? It did not even prove the point he was trying to make; it just proved that Scott Morrison cannot be trusted and he cannot tell the truth.

**An opposition member** interjected.

**Mr DICK:** I will take the interjection. The reason for this ministerial statement is this. The Prime Minister's deceptions—Scott Morrison's deceptions—are now damaging our international relationship, and without action that will impact on the Queensland economy and Queensland jobs.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members! Treasurer, do you have anything further to add?

**Mr DICK:** My message to French and Queensland businesses yesterday and my message as trade minister is that Queensland does not support the actions of our blundering, dissembling Prime Minister. Whatever the Prime Minister does, our state will remain a trusted and respectful trading partner of France because our shared heritage with France—whether it be in trade, in cultural pursuits, on the sporting field or on the battlefields of western Europe—will only be stronger in coming years, as we look to Paris hosting the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games before it is our turn in 2032. Unlike the Morrison government, we will continue to treat that relationship with decency, with dignity and with respect, for the benefits of Queenslanders and the Queensland economy.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Maybe I was unclear earlier, members. There are differences of opinion in this place. There is no cause for that level of interjection. One person has the call; that is the Treasurer. The Treasurer will be heard.

**Mr DICK:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take deep personal offence at the words used by the member for Kawana and I ask that he withdraw.

**Mr Bleijie:** You can't. You asked the Premier what I said. You didn't even hear it.

**Mr DICK:** I heard exactly what you said.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Kawana, I did not hear the phrasing, but I will ask, due to convention, that you withdraw. The member has asked you to withdraw.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I withdraw.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. Treasurer, do you have anything further to add?

**Mr DICK:** No.