




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR JORDAN

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MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Jordan Electorate, Manufacturing Industry

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (2.49 pm): Approximately two years ago I had the opportunity to meet with representatives of MaxiTRANS, which is Australia and New Zealand's largest and leading semitrailer maker. At the time the company, which had its headquarters in Ballarat, was seeking to expand its footprint in Queensland and replace its existing facility in Richlands with a new and bigger facility. Fast-forward two years and I was proud to join the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Hon. Steven Miles, and key representatives of the company for the official opening of MaxiTRANS brand new 14,303 square metre state-of-the-art facility in the heart of Carole Park in the Jordan electorate. I am advised by the company that this new facility has been designed to match the equipment levels and standard processes available in their Ballarat facility and will provide MaxiTRANS with even greater capacity.

All of this did not happen in isolation, because as a government we wanted to ensure we did not lose this impressive manufacturer and the many jobs that would flow from such an expansion to another state—and certainly not Victoria. By working closely with the department of state development we were able to support the company through our highly successful Advance Queensland Industry Attraction Fund. The \$150 million Advance Queensland Industry Attraction Fund began in 2016 but really became particularly important as part of our Unite and Recover Economic Recovery Plan to enable many businesses to relocate or expand in Queensland. The fund is about bringing contestable projects to Queensland, driving job creation, regional growth, increased innovation and technology, and supply chain development.

Some of the success stories of the program have included the Qantas Group Pilot Academy, Boeing's autonomous systems development program, Ashurst, BrewDog and BGI International. A fantastic example of how the Advance Queensland Industry Attraction Fund works is through our support of Aspen Medical. International healthcare provider Aspen Medical has expanded into manufacturing at its Brendale facility, which began the manufacture of PPE equipment. The company provided hospital and medical services to defence forces, remote locations and to mitigate global crises such as the outbreak of Ebola. They commenced production in June last year and began manufacturing hundreds of thousands of face masks per week at a time when securing local production of PPE was very much part of our government's plan to safely manage the COVID-19 pandemic and demand for PPE into the future.

Our government's support of the new MaxiTRANS facility means more new jobs for Queenslanders. In fact, the new facility not only means that the existing workforce of 70 staff has now moved to the new facility but up to 70 new operational jobs are expected to be created over the next five years. It was really terrific when we attended the official opening to get a tour of the new facility and to meet with and speak to some of the local workers. They absolutely love the new facility with its increased space, the capacity to do so much more and to learn new skills. This is a really important

factor because with new jobs comes exciting opportunities for local TAFEs and universities to work with MaxiTRANS to provide specialised in-house training and skills development programs. This is something that I have already discussed with the company and I am keen to pursue, particularly for some of our younger jobseekers locally. The very construction of this new purpose-built facility also created 64 jobs. MaxiTRANS managing director and CEO, Dean Jenkins, said the new facility was an exciting expansion for the company, its workers and customers in industries including agriculture, mining, construction, waste management and bulk as well as the food and grocery sector.

We certainly know how important the trucking industry is and the vital role it plays in the transport of essential products from food to medical equipment and in recent times the transport of test kits and masks. It is really important that we take this opportunity to thank the industry for keeping supply chains going during the pandemic. There is no doubt that logistics will continue to play a key role in supporting our long-term economic recovery, and for this we need more semitrailers. With the help of our government MaxiTRANS now has a new facility that will give it more scope and flexibility to expand its Australian manufacturing capability as well as further bolster its after-sales support here in Queensland, which is a very important part of MaxiTRANS' business. By helping MaxiTRANS shift up another gear we have ensured we continue our recovery from COVID-19 by securing the manufacturing industries and skills needed for the jobs of today and, of course, the jobs of the future.