




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles
MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Coronavirus, Vaccine; Defence Industries

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning) (9.43 am): At the outset can I say how proud I was to be a Queenslander yesterday. To begin a population-wide COVID vaccination program after the death of just six people, only one of whom contracted the virus here, is a miracle we should all be very proud of. It means our annual Anzac Day traditions, which are so important to all of our communities, can go ahead this year as normal. It also means we are ahead of the rest of the world when it comes to the post pandemic economic recovery and job creation.

Last week the Queensland cabinet met at Rheinmetall Defence Australia at Milvehcoe in Redbank, the most advanced military vehicle manufacturing facility in Australia, one of the most advanced in the world. There the Premier signed a memorandum of understanding with Rheinmetall Defence Australia to support its campaign to win the phase 3 Land 400 construction contract. Through its current production of 211 Boxer reconnaissance vehicles, Rheinmetall is already creating more than 450 jobs at Milvehcoe and adding more than \$1 billion to the Queensland economy in its first 10 years.

In signing the MOU the Queensland government demonstrated its commitment to advocate with Rheinmetall on the delivery of the next infantry fighting vehicle for the Australian Army, the Lynx KF41, as part of the Land 400 phase 3 tender. The phase 3 contract is worth \$27 billion over 10 years and would bring hundreds of jobs, provide long-term certainty to the current workforce and create opportunities along the entire supply chain for Queensland small and medium enterprises. These are the kinds of high skilled, knowledge based jobs of the future that the Queensland government supports.

None of it would be possible without the work of the Palaszczuk government. Who could forget then minister Dr Lynham's dash to Germany to get that initial deal over the line? This state-of-the-art 11-hectare site at Redbank gives Rheinmetall a massive home-ground advantage when bidding for these future defence contracts. Queensland's defence industries currently support around 6,500 direct jobs. Our aim is to have an additional 3,500 jobs added to the sector by 2028.

Queensland has the largest concentration of defence personnel and assets in Australia, with over 40 per cent of the Australian Army based here in Queensland. The vehicles developed at Milvehcoe not only protect the lives of the men and women who serve in the Australian Defence forces; they also ensure that Australia has the right capabilities to deal with humanitarian missions and natural disaster situations at home and abroad. Supporting the defence industry is all part of our plan to build back better, supercharging our economic recovery from the COVID pandemic and ensuring the jobs of the future are being created right here in Queensland.