




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Space Industry

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning) (9.44 am): The Queensland government's Space Industry Strategy aims to grow the industry to add between \$3.5 billion and \$6 billion to Queensland's economy and up to 6,000 jobs. The Palaszczuk government wants Queensland to be recognised as a leading centre in Australasia for launch activities, ground systems, earth observation, niche manufacturing, robotics and automation for space. With our advanced manufacturing supply chain and world-leading research programs, it makes sense for the state to also be the home of Australia's space manufacturing industry. The Palaszczuk government is working closely with the Australian Space Agency to grow our space industry. We know Queensland has the capabilities to really make a mark on this exciting industry.

Queensland is home to some of the best universities on the planet. For example, NASA has commissioned QUT to develop software for the Perseverance Rover to analyse geochemical data it captures while on its mission. QUT researchers and PhD students Vanessa Zepeda and Brendan Orenstein and undergraduate students will work with NASA to determine if Martian rocks are similar to rocks found in Australia. Together they are turning the red planet maroon.

Dr David Flannery from QUT is a member of the Perseverance science team and a co-investigator of a rock chemistry instrument aboard the rover, which is led by QUT alumna Dr Abigail Allwood at NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory. These are Queenslanders helping to answer the profound question as to whether life has ever existed elsewhere in our solar system.

For approximately one Mars year, or 687 earth days, the Perseverance Rover will feed back X-rayed images of rocks for the students to study. NASA specifically wants to compare Mars rocks to the almost three-billion-year-old rocks from the Pilbara region in Western Australia. This will also give scientists a better understanding of why Mars, which was once home to lakes and rivers, is now so different to earth. Queenslanders may not be walking on Mars yet, but we are leaving our footprints there in other ways.