



Speech By  
**Hon. Dr Steven Miles**


**MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA**

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## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Defence Industries, Events**

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning) (9.43 am): Earlier this week the Chief of Army Symposium was held here in Brisbane. This event provided the opportunity for stakeholders to engage with defence on topics like collaboration, innovation, technology and people. The symposium was also an opportunity for Queensland businesses to put themselves in the spotlight and promote our homegrown defence innovation. Conducted in conjunction with the symposium, the Army Robotics Exposition was held on 20 April. In the north of the state, the Trusted Autonomous Systems Defence Cooperative Research Centre held its annual symposium in Townsville.

I am also pleased to announce today the appointment of our new Strategic Defence Adviser for Land, former Army brigadier Alison Creagh. Alison is an accomplished leader and decision-maker who served in the Australian Army for 30 years. She will play a critical role in advising the Palaszczuk government on growing our defence industries.

I am proud to say that Queensland will also play host to an enormous event in June, Land Forces 2021. Not only does this mean immediate jobs in hospitality and local business but also it means so much more for Queensland in the long term. Land Forces is one of the largest events of its type in the Asia-Pacific region and the premier Australian land defence exhibition showcasing equipment, technology and services. Our defence industries sector is one of the government's high-value, high-growth, priority industry sectors and supports around 6,500 jobs.

This event will give Queensland's small to medium sized enterprises a platform to generate quality leads for millions of dollars in potential contracts which will boost the industry and create more jobs for Queenslanders. The majority of Queensland's small to medium sized enterprises supplying into defence also support a broad range of other industry sectors including maritime, aerospace, medical, resources, agriculture and emergency management. The Land Forces Expo will also present Queensland as a preferred location for land defence investment and promote our industry capabilities to the world.

There is no doubt that Queensland is Australia's home for land defence. That is why Rheinmetall Defence Australia chose Queensland as the home for their Military Vehicle Centre of Excellence, the most advanced military vehicle manufacturing facility in Australia, if not the best in the world. The Palaszczuk government is committed to ensuring our state is at the forefront of defence industries in this country because it means long-term jobs and economic growth that will benefit all Queenslanders.