




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

Record of Proceedings, 16 March 2022

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Exports

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.51 am): For an outward-looking state like Queensland, trade and investment relationships are critical to our future economic prosperity. That has become more and more evident across the course of the pandemic. When natural disasters strike our state, the revenue from exports helps Queensland recover faster and it is our longstanding relationships with global partners that will be critical to our state's recovery. That is why I was proud to lead the Queensland trade mission to Expo 2020 Dubai two weeks ago to promote Queensland exporters and investment opportunities. In 2020 the value of Queensland's exports to the Middle East was valued at nearly a billion dollars and was also a major source of investment. The United Arab Emirates is home to four of the top 20 sovereign wealth funds in the world, including the world's second largest, the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority, which I met with when I was in the UAE.

This mission was Queensland's first chance to shine on the global stage since the Premier secured our hosting rights for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, and the response to Queensland's global events at the Australia Pavilion was outstanding. Hosting the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games will deliver an \$8.1 billion benefit to Queensland, including \$4.6 billion in economic benefits from tourism and trade. Our Dubai delegation included Olympic champions Natalie Cook and Cate Campbell, Paralympic champion Curtis McGrath and Dubai based Paralympian Jessica Smith. The message was clear: we will share the 2032 games with the world.

The 2032 games are not just about the next decade; they are about the run into 2032 and then the decade beyond. That is why I was pleased to listen to Olympic legacy insights from the Mace Group, which had a central role in delivering the London 2012 Olympic legacy program. Discussions like these with the small band of cities which, like us, are Olympic and Paralympic hosts will help ensure Brisbane, Queensland 2032 will deliver the greatest possible benefit for our state, but our state has so much more to offer.

Our global new energy event showcased our natural and technological advantages when it comes to the production of renewable energy and green hydrogen. Potential investors only need to look at the world's largest hydrogen electrolyser manufacturing facility to be built by Fortescue Future Industries in Gladstone to know that Queensland has an environment and a government and a local member conducive to doing business. Our Future Cities Forum emphasised Queensland's growing reputation as a provider of intelligent transport, technology and architecture and design solutions. Attendees from around the world were left with no doubt that the skills and enthusiasm of Queensland businesses are among the best on the planet—companies like Herbal Wellbeing Australia based in Buddina which is exporting its locally grown pulses into the Middle East with the support of our trade investment office based in Kawana.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr DICK: I am so pleased that our TIQ office in Kawana supported 14 Sunshine Coast based companies last year with almost a quarter of a million dollars in grants to assist them with export opportunities—extraordinary businesses like Gold Coast based Next Level Racing, which joined me in Dubai, a company that designs, manufactures and exports racing and flight simulators to 50 countries around the world. In a world of escalating geopolitical tensions, there has never been a more important time to look our long-term investment partners in the eye to assure them that Queensland is a reliable and safe place to invest. Sovereign wealth funds based in Abu Dhabi have more than \$2 billion invested in Queensland. Together with the head of the Queensland Investment Corporation, I was able to assure them of more opportunities to come in our Olympic state. As I said in Dubai and Abu Dhabi, Queensland trade relationships are based on the values that define our people—trust, friendship, expertise and experience.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana.

Mr Butcher interjected.

Mr DICK: I take the interjection from the member for Gladstone. Of course, the member for Kawana travelled to China on a trade mission just after his community was impacted by bushfires.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DICK: I will remain absolutely relentless in my work as trade minister—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, you are warned under the standing orders.

Mr DICK: I will remain relentless in my work to open doors to build those relationships and opportunities for Queensland businesses and industry while I have the privilege of serving as Queensland trade minister. Mr Speaker, I can assure you, I can assure the members opposite and I can assure all members of the government that I will do this regardless of anything anyone says to talk down Queensland's most valued and important exporters.

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: We are going to start this day off in a very orderly manner. Treasurer, you are warned under the standing orders. You are not directing your comments through the chair. Member for Clayfield, you are also warned under the standing orders for not directing your comments through the chair.