




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

International Nurses Day; Exports

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (10.21 am): I join the Premier and Deputy Premier in acknowledging the mighty work that nurses and midwives do across Queensland. Earlier this morning I had the opportunity to meet with a number of nurse navigators. The nurse navigator program and the nurse-to-patient ratio program, while opposed by some, are significant health reforms in this state—reforms that were committed to by our Premier while in opposition and reforms that have been delivered by a Labor government that will fundamentally transform the delivery of health care in Queensland. We are so proud of what nurse navigators, nurses and midwives do every day across Queensland.

Data released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics a week ago shows that the value of Queensland's merchandise exports in the three months to March this year was \$27.5 billion. That is a 98.6 per cent increase—almost a 100 per cent increase—on a year earlier. For the year to March 2022, the value of Queensland's merchandise exports rose to \$94.1 billion. That is the highest 12-month total ever recorded. When you add services exports, Queensland is a \$100 billion export economy.

In the year to March, almost one in every three export dollars earned in Australia was earned in Queensland. One in every five jobs in Queensland is supported by exports. We export more goods by value than New South Wales, South Australia and Tasmania combined. That is why it is so important that we acknowledge the success of our exporters and encourage more businesses to tackle more markets overseas. That is why our government is today delighted to launch the Premier of Queensland's Export Awards for 2022.

Our Queensland exporters continue to innovate and display optimism, perseverance and resilience. In 2021, Gold Coast based Next Level Racing was named Queensland's Exporter of the Year. Exporting racing simulators to more than 50 countries, Next Level Racing exemplifies the industry-leading talent and innovation that is present in Queensland. Next Level Racing supplies simulators to the world's pre-eminent electronic games racing events. These locally designed and made simulators are so highly regarded internationally that they are also sought after by elite motor racers as a training tool to enhance their on-road performance. It was a pleasure to have Next Level Racing join me in Dubai on my recent trade mission, where I had the opportunity to promote some of Queensland's best businesses and industries.

Export success stories like this show how vital Queensland exporters are to our economy. Winning these awards can be a launch pad to global recognition and success. In 2019, Queensland based global design firm Populous was named Australian Exporter of the Year. Populous won the right to compete at the nationals after winning the professional services category at the Premier's Export Awards. Populous is now one of the largest architectural firms in the world and generates around 80 per cent of its income from exports, creating jobs in Queensland—a company proudly based in the

McConnel electorate. They have just been awarded the contract to re-enliven Seoul's 1988 Olympic Stadium. Some of Populous's greatest work will be on display during Magic Round this weekend. They are the firm behind the greatest Rugby League stadium in the world: Suncorp Stadium—built by Labor.

Of the 7,000 exporting companies in Queensland, more than 40 per cent are based in our regions, and the strength of those regional exporters is particularly highlighted through the awards program. The Premier of Queensland's Export Awards are an important part of our government's support for exporters. Award nominations are now open and I encourage our exporters to get involved, with this year's winners to be announced at a celebration event in October.