




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Exports

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.49 am): Last week's inaugural United Airlines flight direct from San Francisco was good news for Queensland tourism operators. But when it took off to head back across the Pacific, it was also good news for Queensland exporters. Underneath the passengers' feet on that return journey were more than 17 tonnes of high-value Queensland exports being flown to North American markets via San Francisco. It included 1.3 tonnes of Queensland-made cosmetics. It included 900 kilograms of four-wheel drive components manufactured at Brendale, in the electorate of Pine Rivers. It included 15 tonnes of high-quality, chilled Queensland beef.

One of the lessons we learned from the pandemic was the importance and fragility of international supply chains. Less international flights meant less belly hold capacity for Queensland cargo. Now, thanks to our government's partnership with Queensland airports and our joint aviation industry attraction fund, those flights are roaring back. In the 2021-22 financial year almost 11,000 tonnes of Queensland beef flew out of Brisbane Airport—beef worth \$314 million. That was of value to Queensland graziers, feedlot operators and processors. Our other leading air freight exports are a showcase of advanced manufacturing—aircraft components, medical devices and instruments, and pharmaceuticals.

Access to more diverse markets for more products makes Queensland exporters more resilient, and our government wants to see more of that. That is why we have invested \$20 million in the construction of regional trade distribution centres at Toowoomba and Cairns. Those centres, with temperature-controlled storage, give access to direct flights to Asia for producers from the Lockyer Valley to the Atherton Tablelands and everywhere in between. The three new United Airlines flights direct to San Francisco mean another 50 tonnes of capacity for Queensland exporters each week. That means more jobs and more business right across Queensland. I congratulate the Brisbane Airport Corporation and United Airlines on this important aviation partnership and everything it brings to our state.