




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Record of Proceedings, 24 May 2022

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Federal Labor Government; Marine Industry

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure) (9.44 am): Firstly, I would like to join the Premier in welcoming the new Anthony Albanese Labor government. I know that they will be a government who will deliver for Queenslanders and work with Queensland, instead of fighting with us.

One of the most exciting growth stories in Queensland today is that of our marine industry in the state's Far North. Cairns is well established as one of Australia's and the world's leading hubs for the maintenance, repair and overhaul work that keeps vessels shipshape. The Palaszczuk government has helped to ensure the Cairns Marine Precinct is recognised globally as a destination for national and international vessels of all sizes. We are now working to secure the precinct's future, industry growth and more jobs thanks to a \$150 million Queensland government funding commitment. This will be matched by the incoming federal Labor government, making it a \$300 million upgrade.

I was in Cairns last week for the announcement of a major expansion that will allow maintenance repair and overhaul works to be undertaken on more vessels and bigger vessels in Far North Queensland. The designation of Cairns for the Navy's Regional Maintenance Centre North East is testament to the great capability of local industry there underpinned by the support of Queensland defence industries.

The new common-user facility will support an expansion that will attract vessels of up to 120 metres in length for repairs and maintenance. There will be a 5,000-tonne ship lift enabling repair work on new hardstand areas. There will be specialist facilities for blasting and painting work and more capacity for wet berths. The precinct already has three busy shipyards and supports 4,600 jobs. With this expansion more opportunities will be sailing in for larger defence and commercial contracts.

Cairns is one of the few Australian ports offering both in-water and land facility expansion for the Department of Defence. It is also home to Queensland's only operational Navy base. The Queensland government already understands the great potential this project holds for the Cairns economy. We have already made a separate \$30 million investment in the precinct. Now, with the partnership of the Australian Albanese government, we can take the next step.