

Question on Notice

No. 240

Asked on 1 April 2014

MR PUCCI asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning (MR SEENEY) –

QUESTION:

Will the Deputy Premier outline how local businesses will benefit from the State Government's, Defence Industries Queensland initiative?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Logan for his question.

Queensland is the second-largest state in Australia for defence employment, home to a quarter of Australian Defence Force (ADF) military personnel and a 26 per cent share of national defence industry. Clearly, defence is big business in Queensland.

In recognition of this, last year the Premier, the Honourable Campbell Newman MP, and I launched Defence Industries Queensland to demonstrate this government's long-term commitment to advancing Queensland defence industries. Along with Queensland first Defence Industries Envoy, Mr Lindsay Pears, Defence Industries Queensland is situated within the Industry Development division of the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning.

Defence Industries Queensland is tasked with:

- assisting Queensland companies win ADF contracts;
- increasing participation of Queensland companies in the global defence supply chain; and
- assisting the ADF to maximise its presence in Queensland.

These objectives are being achieved through establishing a baseline of local industry to establish its size, capability and revenue; building close relations with industry and strategic defence stakeholders; fostering local industry capability and facilitating new defence investment.

What officers of the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning have found through literally hundreds of engagements with industry is that Queensland companies really are the quiet achievers, going about their business without much fanfare. In response to an overwhelming desire reported by industry for there to be a central co-ordinating body to assist promote them, Defence Industries Queensland has developed a strong brand for industry to unite under and promote the diverse defence industry capability this state possesses.

This capability was recently showcased by Defence Industries Queensland during the Defence Services Asia Exhibition held in Malaysia from 14 to 17 April this year, with the unit assisting Queensland companies attending the expo and participating as part of Team Defence Australia. This effort built on the 2013 presence at the Avalon Air Show, Langkawi International Marine and Aerospace Exhibition and the biennial Pacific International Maritime Exhibition. It also lays the platform to further promote Queensland capability to international audiences during other major events to be held this year, culminating in facilitating a significant Queensland presence at this year's Land Forces Conference to be held in Brisbane in September this year prior to the G20 Summit.

Defence Industry Queensland has established a series of consultative forums involving industry leaders representing defence land, sea, air and innovation sector capabilities to act as both a sounding board and to provide direction on current and future industry development initiatives.

Defence Industry Queensland is working with groups such as QMI Solutions and the Industry Capability Network to facilitate various capability workshops across the state to assist our businesses position themselves to compete for defence work in both the domestic and global arenas.

Local businesses will benefit through this suite of capability development activities, the development of strong partnerships with industry and defence, and the proactive promotion nationally and internationally of the defence industry capability that lies in this state. Through Defence Industries Queensland, the government will ensure that Queensland is Australia's front line for defence industries.