

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1177

asked on Thursday, 6 September 2018

MR D PEGG ASKED THE MINISTER FOR STATE DEVELOPMENT, MANUFACTURING, INFRASTRUCTURE AND PLANNING (HON C DICK)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise what steps are being taken to explore Queensland's ability to contribute towards the establishment of an Australian space industry?

ANSWER:

The Palaszczuk Government has long identified aerospace, which incorporates the space industry, as a priority sector with global growth potential, as part of the government's \$650 million Advance Queensland initiative – with dedicated actions on space industry development in the Queensland Aerospace 10-Year Roadmap and Action Plan released on 17 June 2018.

The emergence of a commercial space industry has spurred the development of an estimated US\$400 billion global space industry that is growing at more than 10 per cent per annum.

In Australia, the space industry already generates revenues between \$3 billion and \$4 billion per year and employs around 10,000 people, however Australia's space industry is currently disjointed and lacks national infrastructure.

Queensland is a recognised leader in aerospace, including the new and burgeoning area of autonomous aerial systems (i.e. drones) so growing the emerging space industry is a natural progression.

Earlier this year, in representations to the Australian Government, I highlighted Queensland's interest in being considered as a headquarters for the Australian Space Agency (the space agency).

On 26 July 2018, the Premier met with Dr Megan Clark, the head of the space agency, to highlight Queensland's strengths in the aerospace sector and emerging space industry and to confirm the government's interest in supporting the Australian Government's commitment to developing this exciting new sector.

The Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning is undertaking an assessment of Queensland's existing space industry infrastructure and capabilities in the context of the wider national picture and the Asia-Pacific region.

Further work is also being undertaken on the economic growth potential of developing Queensland's strengths in the emerging space industry.

To complement these critical assessments, the Palaszczuk Government has established a Space Industry Development Reference Group with key sectoral stakeholders. The group is chaired by Air Vice Marshal Neil Hart AM (retired), the Queensland Strategic Defence Adviser for Aerospace.

On 6 September 2018 Parliament referred an inquiry to the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee (the committee) to examine the opportunities to create jobs across Queensland and promote existing supply chain capability from the establishment of a space industry.

The committee is due to report back to the Legislative Assembly on 28 February 2019 and its recommendations will further complement the government's space industry development work.

Space has significant potential for Queensland and the government aims to work with industry and researchers to capitalise on the many emerging opportunities this sector presents – from the next frontier in advanced manufacturing to enhancing our resources, agriculture and tourism sectors.