

## QUESTION ON NOTICE

No.1378

asked on Wednesday, 17 October 2018

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**MRS B LAUGA** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR STATE DEVELOPMENT, MANUFACTURING, INFRASTRUCTURE AND PLANNING (HON C DICK)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister provide an update on the Palaszczuk Government's \$10m manufacturing hub for Rockhampton?

ANSWER:

Supporting the growth of regional manufacturers is a priority of the Queensland Government. By investing \$30 million in manufacturing hubs (the hubs), the government is providing the catalyst to deliver world-leading technologies, processes and practices to regional manufacturers and attract increased private sector investment to support and grow jobs in our regions.

The hubs are being established in Rockhampton, Cairns and Townsville. They will support local manufacturers to become more productive, increase international competitiveness and access emerging and diversified growth opportunities. The government continues to work closely with industry to support our local manufacturers transition to advanced manufacturing.

Throughout 2018, the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning undertook regional consultation with local businesses, local governments, unions and educational institutions on the hubs. Consultation indicated that while the hubs need to be connected and share strategic objectives, each hub should have its own 'unique flavour' and capitalise on each region's strengths and opportunities to drive innovation, growth and jobs.

Sectoral analysis of the manufacturing sector in the Rockhampton local government area (according to 2016 Australian Bureau of Statistics data) shows that food product manufacturing is the largest manufacturing sub-sector by employment (46.18 per cent), followed by non-metallic mineral product manufacturing (8.9 per cent), fabricated metal product manufacturing (8.7 per cent) and primary metal and metal product (6.7 per cent).

As such, the Rockhampton hub in addition to the Cairns and Townsville hubs will support regional industry partnerships and deliver a suite of tailored services which will position more regional manufacturers to achieve significant tangible and transformational outcomes.

The benefits of being part of a hub include:

- a benchmarking service and access to one-on-one consultants to assist businesses to become more productive, access new markets and grow;

- help business focus on developing products and bringing products to market;
- showcasing growth opportunities for firms, sectors and the region;
- workforce development and training for managers and employees;
- business mentoring and coaching;
- tailored programs to support businesses to diversify and enter new supply chains and markets;
- the development of partnerships with schools and universities, to assist in retaining and developing the regional workforce with strong STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) skills;
- support for small-to-medium enterprises to grow to drive job creation; and
- greater connectivity between businesses and researchers to improve local manufacturing capabilities.

The Rockhampton hub is expected to be opened in early 2019.