

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 518

asked on Thursday, 3 May 2018

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister outline what steps the Palaszczuk Government is taking to reinvigorate the policy agenda to support manufacturing in Queensland as part of the government's response to a Queensland Productivity Commission Report into the manufacturing sector?

ANSWER:

The government welcomes the Queensland Productivity Commission's report into manufacturing in Queensland, which was published on 1 May 2018.

The Queensland Productivity Commission (the commission) made 17 recommendations to boost productivity and competitiveness in the sector, the majority of which were accepted by the government.

The recommendations are wide ranging and cover—among other things—regulation, innovation, skills development and training, policy development and procurement. The commission's recommendations on the vocational education and training framework, government purchasing, electricity prices and removing barriers to gas supply are consistent with the objectives of already established government programs.

The government's response to the commission's recommendations has been publicly released and outlines our commitment to this important sector. The recently announced Manufacturing Ministerial Committee (the committee) will be integral to the delivery of the outcomes sought by the commission and will be tasked with identifying industry reform priorities and emerging issues.

In addition to being guided by the recommendations from the commission, this committee will have an enhanced focus on skills for the future development of the sector. The committee will include regional representation, and span across the state's diverse manufacturing industry—from niche manufacturers to multinationals.

The government's response also commits to greater transparency over the effectiveness of incentive packages, with outcomes of the government's industry attraction incentive program to be published in the annual report of the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning. This will ensure public confidence that the targeted use of incentives is continuing to deliver important employment and economic outcomes for Queensland including the manufacturing sector.

Two other initiatives have already been delivered, with the appointment of a dedicated Minister for Manufacturing, delivering the commission's recommendation for senior oversight (part of Recommendation 17); and publishing of guidance materials on the Queensland Procurement Policy and forward procurement pipelines for each of the government's six procurement categories, delivering most of Recommendation 13.

This demonstrates the government's strong ongoing commitment to the manufacturing sector.