

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 885

asked on 15 June 2018

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the budget's \$40m allocation to the Advance Queensland Industry Attraction Fund and a number of renewable energy projects in the planning and approval stages in the Mirani Electorate—

Will the Minister commit to create more jobs, support regional growth and increase innovation, by mandating more local content, especially manufactured equipment, will be included as a condition of these project approvals?

ANSWER:

Through the Advance Queensland Industry Attraction Fund (AQIAF), the Queensland Government has been successful in attracting and facilitating significant projects to Queensland.

To date, nine contestable projects have established or expanded their operations in Queensland.

These projects could have been established elsewhere in Australia or overseas but instead they are setting up in Queensland, bringing more than 820 new jobs over the next five years and more than \$300 million in capital investment. These projects will also help generate new local supply opportunities and directly benefit local economies.

Regional projects such as the Northern Oil advanced biofuels pilot plant near Gladstone have the potential to provide significant local benefits, including more jobs and an alternative income source for the local suppliers of feedstock for the plant.

Oji Fibre Solutions which recently opened its corrugated cardboard manufacturing facility in Yatala, is already expanding. The company has established two new distribution centres in Mareeba and Bundaberg and is planning to open a further centre in Bowen next year. This expansion will employ approximately 30 additional staff in regional Queensland.

In addition, AQIAF projects which meet the threshold requirements of the Queensland Charter for Local Content will be required to identify how they intend to maximise local industry participation and provide full, fair and reasonable opportunities for local suppliers.

To assist local suppliers better access emerging local supply opportunities, my department works in partnership with regional communities and businesses to build local capability, offering a range of development workshops and seminars.

AQIAF will continue to bring innovative projects to Queensland, driving job creation, regional growth and supply chain development.

Also, the recently announced \$1 billion Lacour Energy Wind Farm project north west of Rockhampton will generate approximately 350 jobs during construction. This is Australia's largest wind farm project and involves construction of turbines, substations, workers' accommodation, operation facilities and powerlines and this will require products and services from local businesses.

I also note the commencement of the *Strong and Sustainable Resource Communities Act 2017* and the Coordinator-General's Social Impact Assessment Guideline 2018. The Act and the guideline ensure that large resource projects that require an environmental impact statement, prioritise local employment and local business and industry procurement.

My department is constantly working with all major project proponents and local businesses across Queensland to ensure the best outcome for local economies.