

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 190

asked on Wednesday, 27 February 2019

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister provide an update in relation to the potential development of a space industry in Queensland?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government is considering opportunities for Queensland's space industry to grow and increase its contribution to the state economy.

Complementary to the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee's (the committee) report into job creation opportunities in Queensland arising from the establishment of an Australian space agency – which was tabled on Thursday 28 February 2019 – the Palaszczuk Government has:

- established the Queensland Space Industry Reference Group – which consists of key space sector representatives and is chaired by Queensland's strategic defence advisor for aerospace, Air Vice-Marshal Neil Hart AM (retired) – to provide input into the government's space industry development activities; and
- continued to build relationships with the Australian Space Agency (ASA) to highlight Queensland's space industry and affirm Queensland's interest in supporting the ASA's commitment to transform and grow a globally respected Australian space industry. This included:
 - an initial meeting between the Premier and Minister for Trade and Dr Megan Clark, Head of the agency in July 2018; and
 - a follow-up meeting between Dr Clark and myself on 21 March 2019 to discuss how ASA and the Queensland Government can further collaborate to build a national space industry.

In February 2019, the Palaszczuk Government also published a report undertaken by Deloitte Access Economics on the economic potential of Queensland's space industry. The report, *Sky is not the limit: Building Queensland's space economy*, found that Queensland's space industry:

- accounts for 15 per cent of Australia's space industry;
- is growing at a yearly rate of seven per cent;
- supports 2,000 jobs and generates \$760 million in annual revenue, and;

- has the potential to add between 4,000 and 6,000 jobs, and between \$3.5 billion and \$6 billion to the Queensland economy over the next two decades.

Queensland is well-placed to develop its space sector by leveraging advantage from its existing expertise in the aerospace, defence and advanced manufacturing sectors. This includes capabilities critical to the space industry such as hypersonics; propulsion; research and development; earth observation; data analytics and more.

Queensland also has a geographical advantage in terms of available land free from telecommunication and air traffic interference. These capabilities could potentially make Queensland attractive for launch and ground station activities.

However, in this emerging phase of the space industry, there may only be demand for one or two major space infrastructure sites in Australia. That is why it is important for the establishment of space infrastructure to be coordinated by the Australian Government to ensure that the whole nation benefits.

The Queensland Government will table its final response to the committee's recommendations by late May 2019 after consulting with the Queensland Space Industry Reference Group and relevant federal and state government agencies.