



## Message from the Premier of Queensland

I look forward to welcoming the inaugural MRO Australasia to Brisbane in 2020.

There is no better place in Australasia to discuss aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) than Queensland. Our State boasts considerable civil and military aviation strengths – our depth of capability, our world-class expertise and our strategic location.

Brisbane is home to Boeing Defence Australia's headquarters, as well as the company's largest autonomous systems development program outside the United States. Qantas Airways has also established its heavy maintenance, East Coast and Pacific Boeing Dreamliner operations in the State capital of Brisbane, and has selected Wellcamp Airport in Toowoomba as the base for a new Qantas Group Pilot Academy, which will train up to 250 pilots a year from mid-2019. Virgin Australia Airlines, Airbus Group Australia Pacific, Northrup Grumman, Sikorsky Australia, GE Aviation, Hawker Pacific and Raytheon Australia all have sizeable operations based in our State and we are home to Australia's largest avionics facility and its leading commercial airline paint shop.

Our State's \$1.3 billion aircraft manufacturing and maintenance sector provides more than 4500 direct jobs across 344 enterprises. The need for skilled maintenance workers is rising rapidly due to increasing global passenger travel demand, which will see 35 000 new aircraft built worldwide over the next 20 years.

Aviation Australia and the Queensland Government's technical training arm provides specialist training for the local and international aviation and aerospace industries through a range of pilot, cabin crew and aircraft maintenance engineering programs. The *Queensland Aerospace 10-Year Roadmap and Action Plan*, with a strong focus on MRO, cements Queensland's position as an aviation centre of excellence, and is an important part of our \$650 million Advance Queensland innovation drive.

Queensland's growing reputation as a major aviation hub of the Asia-Pacific is why my Government is pleased to sponsor this important biennial forum in 2020, 2022 and 2024.

A warm Queensland welcome awaits everyone attending MRO Australasia.

**ANNASTACIA PALASZCZUK MP**  
PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND  
MINISTER FOR TRADE