



Speech By
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**STATE DEVELOPMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURAL
INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (3.34 pm): I, too, rise to make a contribution to the debate on the committee's report into job creation opportunities arising from the establishment of an Australian space industry. I have been a member of the Southern Astronomical Society for a while now.

Mr Krause: Stars in your eyes!

Mr BOOTHMAN: I take that interjection. When the committee attended the premises of Gilmour Space Technologies recently it certainly piqued the interest of the local society. They were keen to find out what was going on and what technologies are available in Australia. On reading through the report I found it interesting that Australia was the third country in the world behind Russia and the United States in building, designing and launching its own satellite two years before astronauts walked on the moon. It is quite interesting that we have such an achievement that is not widely known.

In July 2017 the Australian government announced a review into the space industry to work out what opportunities are available in this industry moving forward. In 2018-19 the Australian government allocated funds to this industry, providing \$300 million in space related measures to grow the Australian domestic space industry, including \$41 million towards establishing its own space agency in Australia and \$15 million to support international engagement. That brings me to one of my local businesses—technically not in the Theodore electorate; it is in the Coomera electorate—and that is Gilmour Space Technologies. As I would drive down the highway I would notice them and when speaking to members of the Southern Astronomical Society they said they used to hold their meetings there. They found it interesting seeing the rocket technology and how it was progressing. They felt that Australia should be getting involved in the space industry.

Back in the Joh Bjelke-Petersen era when I was a young whippersnapper I remember reading about the proposed spaceport at Cape York. Even though half a million dollars worth of seed funding was allocated towards it, it did not progress because of differences between the USSR and the United States. I believe we wanted to use rockets that were Russian made. There were also issues around land rights. In 1990 the then Goss government hit it on the head with legislation it brought into parliament.

Mr Krause: It never took off!

Mr BOOTHMAN: It never took off, which is a shame. The closer a launch pad is to the equator the more momentum the earth has on a rocket and therefore it flings it into space a lot easier with less fuel. It is interesting that we do not go closer to the equator because, in the long run, you can launch a rocket with less fuel and get to a higher altitude. In concluding my contribution I give a big shout-out to my local Southern Astronomical Society and its president, Brendan Junge, who does a fantastic job, and its members, who are very, very passionate.