



Speech By  
**Brittany Lauga**


**MEMBER FOR KEPPEL**

---

Record of Proceedings, 23 August 2018

**PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

**Buy Queensland**

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (2.40 pm): I believe that every single dollar of the \$18 billion spend by the Queensland government each year should support the economic resilience of Queensland. Every dollar spent should support secure, permanent jobs and every dollar spent should support the opportunity for our local kids to get ahead through training and apprenticeships. I am proud to be part of this government that backs local business and supports local jobs and the Central Queensland economy.

Our Buy Queensland policy, which commenced on 1 September 2017, puts local businesses and jobs first. The Chamber of Commerce & Industry Queensland has called it 'an absolute shot in the arm for small business'. We have now enhanced the policy to drive more local employment opportunities for all Queenslanders to ensure secure, quality, local jobs and to ensure safe workplaces and training opportunities for Queenslanders. Buy Queensland means that, if there is a firm in Keppel capable of undertaking the work in Keppel, they have the best possible shot at winning government work.

Since Buy Queensland came into effect in September last year, 84 per cent of Queensland government contracts awarded through the QTenders website have gone to Queensland businesses—like the appointment of Ian Weatherall Electrical to undertake T5 adapter lighting replacements in various Rockhampton schools in April 2018; like engaging Choice, Passion, Life under the landscape maintenance of multi-unit complexes contract as a social procurement entity in Toowoomba; like awarding a contract to the Maryborough Aboriginal Corporation for Housing and Cultural Development for the provision of cleaning and yard maintenance in the Maryborough area and some surrounding towns.

I have been unashamedly fighting for better buy local policies for years. I run my own buy local Christmas campaign every year in Keppel in a bid to encourage local people to buy their Christmas gifts locally as opposed to online, and support our local businesses and our economy. We know that the Buy Queensland strategy is already giving a real, competitive advantage to local businesses. Recently at the Buy Queensland Strategy briefing held by the department in Rockhampton I spoke with local builders, building designers, construction suppliers and engineers about the strategy. They all told me how excited they are to finally be given a competitive advantage when it comes to providing goods and services to government and on government projects. They are ready and willing to provide goods and services to government. Since this policy has come into effect, local businesses, like Keith Turner and Glenn Thomasson at Designtek, say they are now on an even playing field when it comes to procurement in Queensland.

Businesses in my electorate will benefit because the Buy Queensland strategy unashamedly gives preference to businesses in Berserker before Brisbane, businesses in Parkhurst before Parramatta and businesses in Yeppoon before Yokohama. The Palaszczuk government is determined to do everything we can to use local suppliers, support local jobs and grow Queensland's own economy. I am proud that the Buy Queensland policy is already starting to pay dividends.