




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

Record of Proceedings, 23 August 2018

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Manufacturing, Made in Queensland

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.44 am): I had the pleasure this month of visiting Gold Coast manufacturing businesses reaping the rewards of the Palaszczuk Labor government's support through the Made in Queensland program. The Gold Coast's manufacturing industry is booming, with five companies in the area receiving Made in Queensland grants totalling more than \$1.5 million to grow their businesses and support jobs. There is nothing more rewarding than meeting with business owners, particularly family business owners, and their staff to discuss the positive impact these boosts are having on their businesses.

I visited Nerang glass and aluminium manufacturer, Patterson Glass, with the member for Gaven, which is using its Made in Queensland grant of more than \$250,000 to purchase equipment and become more competitive in the market. This family owned business will have greater capacity to take on bigger projects and aims to create 10 new jobs over the next two years. Patterson Glass director, Wendy Wheway, said growing their business will honour the legacy left by her parents who set up the business in 1974.

I also paid a visit to Yatala's Urban Turf Solutions, the sole producer of synthetic grass in Queensland, specialising in manufacturing, fitting and maintaining quality sporting surfaces. The company is set to upgrade its technology thanks to a \$256,000 Made in Queensland grant, and grow its workforce to 30, up from 25, by the end of this year.

Currumbin company, Freedom Retractable Screens, will use its \$105,000 grant on equipment to widen its market share and hone its competitive edge. It is anticipated this grant will allow Freedom Retractable Screens to employ another six workers. Two other Gold Coast businesses, Geofabrics Australasia and aluminium manufacturer Knotwood, have also received grants from the program which is expected to create 15 new jobs.

The Palaszczuk Labor government has a 10-year plan to transform the state's manufacturing sector to more advanced manufacturing, delivering high-paid, knowledge based jobs, and this agenda is working wonders for businesses across the state. Queensland's manufacturing sector already employs around 170,000 people, with around 36 more jobs on the way for these five companies in the Gold Coast region. The second round of the government's \$40 million Made in Queensland program opened in April and has since received 115 expressions of interest. I look forward to updating the House on more local success stories and more local jobs as round 2 of the Made in Queensland program progresses.