




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Manufacturing

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.41 am): The Palaszczuk Labor government is focused on job creation and meeting changing workforce demands now and for years to come. Our goal as a government is to create a prosperous, thriving and inclusive Queensland. That is why building advanced manufacturing and strengthening the skills of Queenslanders to capitalise on this growing sector is firmly on our agenda. Queensland's \$20 billion manufacturing sector already employs 179,000 people, and our government is focused on keeping this figure trending upwards.

In 2016 our government launched the Advanced Manufacturing 10-Year Roadmap and Action Plan, which is a strategy to ensure Queensland manufacturers remain competitive and relevant on the global stage. Queensland has been reaping dividends ever since. Companies like Oji Fibre Solutions, BrewDog, Hanson Australia and Rheinmetall Defence Australia have all been supported by our government through this initiative to bring new advanced manufacturing jobs, skills, technology, innovation and supply chain opportunities to Queensland. Round 1 of our Made in Queensland program has resulted in 53 projects being approved for grants totalling \$18.2 million for projects covering the state from Goondiwindi to Cairns. These projects will support 2,850 existing jobs, create an estimated 532 new high-skill jobs and generate \$47.7 million in project value. More than 360 manufacturers across the state have also undertaken an industry benchmark assessment, measuring their performance against best practice domestically and internationally and providing recommendations for improvements which facilitate growth and innovation.

Our Queensland Hackerspaces Grant program has provided seven regional hackerspaces with up to \$20,000 funding each towards their establishment, and another three hackerspaces have received \$10,000 each to expand so that creative people can gather in a high-tech space to design and manufacture new products. These grants will help strengthen regional Queensland's advanced manufacturing skills base. Jobs Queensland's *Advancing manufacturing skills* report is directly informing the development and implementation of a manufacturing skills implementation plan.

We are also focused on supporting women to grow their skills through our Women in Manufacturing series, which is designed to support and promote women in manufacturing. This program encourages female students to consider a career in manufacturing. I am delighted to say that more than 370 women and students have already attended a breakfast session as part of this series. With the strong support of our government, Queenslanders will reap the success and jobs that will come from a reinvigorated and expanded manufacturing base in our state.