




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MACKAY

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Queensland Mining and Engineering Exhibition

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (2.03 pm): Recently, the Queensland Mining and Engineering Exhibition, commonly known as QME, was held in Mackay. Mr Deputy Speaker, thank you for your presence there as well. This is a biennial conference. On alternate years it is held in Sydney. The only other exhibition of this size held in the Southern Hemisphere is held in South Africa.

This year marked 25 years of the QME having on display the most current and cutting-edge mining and engineering products and services. This exhibition is a truly an international event. No fewer than six companies from Chile were there. There were also companies from China, India and Germany. It was great to see that some exhibitions of producers of mining equipment and devices related to how to reduce the exposure of fine coal dust which, as we all know, is the cause of the insidious black lung disease.

Across the state the METS sector employs approximately 20,000 workers. It generates \$7 billion in revenue and about \$2.45 billion in added revenue to the Queensland economy. By 2036, it is estimated that the METS sector may contribute up to \$4.28 billion in value-adding to the Queensland economy and support up to 28,400 jobs.

The innovative Bowen Basin Cluster Program has received \$500,000 through the METS Ignited plan, which is to be matched by contributions from the cluster's customers. This funding will assist in finding new ways to take innovative ideas to the market quickly and to ensure that the METS sector remains sustainable and competitive over the long term within Australia and also internationally. The Bowen Basin Cluster is comprised of four local METS companies that have combined their complementary areas of expertise to develop innovative and commercial solutions for mining companies.

The Palaszczuk government's election commitment to mining in my area of \$3.6 million to build the mining centre of excellence is on the way. The department of state development is working with the Resource Industry Network and also the Mackay Regional Council to get this centre off the ground. It will be a centre of expertise for training, education, biomedical research and product innovation.

(Time expired)