




Speech By
Leanne Linard

MEMBER FOR NUDGE

Record of Proceedings, 13 June 2018

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Nudgee Electorate, Manufacturing

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (2.15 pm): Nudgee is home to iconic brands Arnott's Biscuits and Golden Circle cannery. We lay claim to Sanofi Pharmaceutical, Triple Eight/Red Bull Race Engineering, Youfoodz and many more across the spectrum, from traditional bread based to advanced manufacturing. With large industrial precincts in Geebung, Virginia, Banyo and Northgate, manufacturing has long been an important source of local employment and economic activity in my electorate. Building the productive capacity and resilience of our state's traditional and emerging industries such as manufacturing remains a critical focus for our government, both to maintain economic momentum and to support the ongoing prosperity of Queensland families and communities. Integral to this is our Advance Queensland vision, initiatives and programs to support innovation led growth and enhance Queensland's capacity to adapt and thrive. So, too, are the priority industry sector road maps and action plans to support the growth of these emerging sectors.

One of the true pleasures of being a local MP and community champion is having the opportunity to celebrate the outstanding achievements of individuals and organisations in your electorate. One such success story in my electorate is Watkins Steel in Banyo. This structural steel and metalwork fabrication company is celebrating its 50th year this year. Watkins has completely transformed from a traditional manufacturer to one that now combines the latest 3D technology with advanced robotics to deliver a superior product, increased production and employment opportunities. Notably, it was commissioned to build the architectural arbour in the Commonwealth Games Athletes Village on the Gold Coast. Watkins Steel has commissioned three lines of advanced robotics and a four-step linked process incorporating digitalisation within steel fabrication. This four-step process has taken an estimated 1,500 work hours per month out of the factory yet has doubled its turnover and actually created more jobs. For every line of robotics commissioned, Watkins has employed an additional 10 people. It is continually investing in its people and in their training, with over 15 per cent of the workforce engaged in apprenticeships and traineeships. In fact, Watkins Steel is a finalist in the 2018 Queensland Training Awards and I wish it every success on 28 July when the winner is announced.

This is an example of how robotics can create jobs, not replace jobs. Watkins is an example of how we can keep production onshore, not offshore, supporting the growth of and investing in advanced manufacturing and particularly robotics as a Queensland competitive advantage, and it is not the only one. The Minister for State Development and Manufacturing, Cameron Dick, visited my electorate recently to see the extraordinary work of global public art design and manufacturing firm UAP. UAP in Northgate is a world leader in architectural design and is using advanced robotics to keep projects and jobs here locally. Working alongside QUT and major industry partners, UAP is passionate about developing an advanced manufacturing hub that will only serve to enhance the competitiveness of other manufacturers in my local community and further afield. Work currently underway by Jobs Queensland will be instructive in identifying the opportunities ahead but also the support and assistance required to transition our manufacturing industry and workers so that no-one is left behind in this changing industry.