



Speech By  
**Andrew Powell**


**MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE**

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**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Manufacturing Industry**

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (2.55 pm): Labor's anti-business and anti-jobs agenda is bleeding Queensland's once proud manufacturing sector dry. A sector that used to be a cornerstone of our state's economy is now haemorrhaging jobs at an unprecedented rate. As fewer products are made in Queensland, as our factories shut down and as our workers lose their jobs to other states and other countries, all this Premier does is bury her head in the sand. It is little wonder that many have labelled her the weakest Premier in Queensland's history.

It was reported earlier this year that under her leadership and since her election as Premier more than 18,000 Queensland manufacturing jobs have been lost. It was stated that under the Palaszczuk Labor government the number of manufacturing workers in Queensland was at its lowest point since the 1990s recession, nearly three decades ago. However, it gets worse. Instead of helping Queensland's manufacturing industry, this Palaszczuk Labor government appears to be hell-bent on destroying it. The latest data available shows that over the past 12 months nearly 14,000 more Queensland manufacturing jobs have been lost. In just one year, as this Labor government lurches from scandal to scandal, 14,000 Queensland manufacturing workers have lost their jobs.

Instead of working to save Queensland's manufacturing industry, Labor's manufacturing minister chooses to spend his time playing petty partisan politics. Instead of being a voice for Queensland manufacturers, he spends his time spreading misinformation. On numerous occasions the member for Woodridge has fabricated statements that the LNP will reduce manufacturing program funding. Without a skerrick of evidence to back up his claims, he has put out a media statement and made numerous statements to this House. This misinformation is yet another example of the all-show and no-substance ethos of Labor's Minister for Manufacturing.

Unlike Labor, the LNP knows that manufacturing is a crucial part of Queensland's economy and the LNP will encourage new businesses to start while giving existing companies a better future. A future LNP government elected in October 2020 will launch an additional \$20 million Built in Queensland funding program to support heavy engineering and manufacturing in this state. We will use Queensland money to help Queensland firms develop new markets in Australia and overseas. To deliver Queensland's manufacturing sector from its darkest hour, the LNP will be providing more resources, not less.

For the minister to say anything else is simply untrue and shows how desperate he is for any distraction away from the thousands of jobs that continue to be lost under his watch.