



Speech By  
**Hon. Glenn Butcher**


**MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE**

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Record of Proceedings, 20 May 2020

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Coronavirus, Manufacturing Industry**

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing) (10.02 am): Queensland has faced more than its fair share of challenges, but we always rise to the occasion. Whether it is floods, cyclones or, as we know, bushfires, this state continues to demonstrate its strength, resilience, agility and ingenuity. The coronavirus is no different. Once again Queensland manufacturers have stepped up, providing personal protective equipment and other essential products for frontline workers in response to the pandemic. To date, our top priority has been to keep those on the front line healthy and safe while they continue to tackle the challenges of COVID-19 here in Queensland.

However, now as we flatten the curve we are also planning on ensuring ready access to the essential goods, materials and products needed into the future. That is why yesterday the Premier announced a \$50 million boost to target and support the expansion of Queensland's vital manufacturing sector and production capacity. Over the past few months we have seen Queensland companies apply machinery and systems to create PPE and other essential products in Queensland, including Evolve Group at Crestmead, which is manufacturing N95 medical masks in high volume; and iconic distilleries such as Bundaberg Rum, Beenleigh Rum and Saleyards Distillery in Rockhampton, which are now supporting the production of hand sanitiser for our frontline staff. This new funding will provide a platform to establish ongoing domestic production capacity for those products and give certainty to manufacturers with long term off-take agreements.

I recognise that it is a great privilege to be the Minister for Manufacturing and to work with our vibrant, innovative and resilient manufacturing sector in Queensland. I am committed to working with manufacturers to invest in advanced manufacturing to create thousands of more jobs throughout Queensland and to boost Queensland's economy. I know that the strong position of our manufacturing sector is due to the hard work of local businesses, local workers and our strong team in the Department of Regional Development and Manufacturing. I also have to acknowledge the hard work of the former minister responsible for manufacturing, who I know will continue to be a champion of manufacturing in his new role as Treasurer.

We are building on our reputation as a place where great ideas are born. I am so proud of our state's ability to adapt our manufacturing skills at this critical time to support our frontline medical health teams and others who are sacrificing so much to keep our communities safe.