




Speech By
Hon. Glenn Butcher

MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Gladstone Manufacturing Hub

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing) (10.07 am): The Palaszczuk government is committed to backing our state's manufacturing industry and, as we deliver our economic plan to unite and recover from the global coronavirus pandemic, that support is more important than ever. Regional Queensland is a manufacturing powerhouse and having a support network for businesses in regional locations across the state is critical if we are to emerge strongly from these turbulent global economic conditions. That is why last month I was pleased to announce a new manufacturing hub delivered by the Palaszczuk Labor government in Gladstone to strengthen our state's manufacturing sector, boost private sector investment and create more local jobs. Located in Gladstone's Central Queensland University, the hub will function as a centre of expertise for advanced manufacturing, providing initiative, training and advice.

The Gladstone Manufacturing Hub will be an access point for local manufacturers to develop their skills and expertise for advanced manufacturing. We are aiming to take the manufacturing industry to greater heights in Gladstone, which is already one of Queensland's industrial powerhouses, with access to a significant state development area and the port of Gladstone. The hub will focus on delivering for region's growing hydrogen industry, renewable energy and biofuel sectors. The work of the Gladstone hub will complement the work of the Rockhampton hub, focusing on Central Queensland's key manufacturing strengths of rail, metal production and food innovation. Having a strong manufacturing hub presence across the Central Queensland region will allow us to build a network of manufacturers that already show the world what they can do.

With access to our \$13.5 million manufacturing hub grants, the businesses across the regions can go from strength to strength. That is businesses like Berg Engineering in Gladstone, which received \$161,719 from the Manufacturing Hubs Grant Program to purchase advanced line boring equipment that will provide higher accuracy and finer cuts. The funding will allow Berg Engineering to train and put on five new workers, as well as help to drive business development. It is only Labor that supports regional manufacturing as part of a whole-of-government COVID-19 economic recovery plan, and it is only Labor that can help the Queensland manufacturing industry grow and create jobs.