




Speech By
Hon. Glenn Butcher

MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

Record of Proceedings, 9 September 2020

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Manufacturing Industry

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing) (10.00 am): There is no greater friend to the Queensland manufacturing sector than the Palaszczuk government. Our government has always known that it is critically important that we make things right here in Queensland. That is why in 2016 we launched our Queensland Advanced Manufacturing 10-Year Road Map and Action Plan, an action plan that sets a path forward for a bigger and better manufacturing industry in Queensland.

The Palaszczuk government is certainly supporting Queensland manufacturing to grow, to expand and to create more jobs for Queenslanders. As we know, global supply chains have been battered by the COVID-19 pandemic. This has reinforced this government's commitment to a vibrant and effective manufacturing sector to make the products that we need right here in Queensland. We have been doing that through programs like the \$46 million Made in Queensland initiative that supports small to medium size businesses and manufacturers to take their business to the next level.

Through our investment we are helping manufacturers maximise their potential, become more internationally competitive, expand their operations and employ more and more Queenslanders. Since 2017 we have supported 84 projects right across Queensland through this program. Of these projects, 66 have been completed thanks to \$25.6 million in grant funding. The funding has protected 3,400 existing jobs and helped to create more than 380 new jobs in manufacturing with more expected to come over the next five years.

We have also invested \$30 million in our regional manufacturing hubs in Cairns, Townsville, Rockhampton and Gladstone. These hubs were established to support the growth of regional manufacturing and help them take their business to the next level. Through the \$13.5 million Manufacturing Hubs Grant Program we have also helped regional businesses build advanced manufacturing capability through technology adoption, skills and training, and business development. Of those grants, 15 have been approved, providing financial support of over \$4.2 million for manufacturers to build their advanced manufacturing capabilities.

As part of our plan to unite and recover for Queensland jobs, we have also announced a \$50 million Making it for Queensland Fund to support Queensland manufacturers make essential goods such as PPE, health consumables and devices. In an increasingly uncertain global environment where supply chains are certainly being broken, it is vital that as a state we have the capacity to produce those products locally, and building that capacity is exactly what this government is doing.

The Palaszczuk government has always supported Queensland manufacturers and workers. We will continue to focus on helping this vital industry to survive and also to grow.

