




Speech By
Christopher Whiting

MEMBER FOR BANCROFT

Record of Proceedings, 28 October 2021

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT

Growing Queensland Business Roadshow; Buy Queensland

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (2.39 pm): I want to talk today about the Buy Queensland approach of the Queensland government and the Growing Queensland Business Roadshow. The Palaszczuk government's Buy Queensland approach is unashamedly pro Queensland. The Palaszczuk government promotes Queensland businesses by buying local every time it can. By doing that, we are supporting jobs for Queenslanders every time we invest taxpayers' money. A total of 60,000 businesses in Queensland have supplied the government since 2017, and that is a \$39 billion boost to our economy.

In the Moreton Bay region, \$1.47 billion has been spent by the government through 3,610 local businesses. The Palaszczuk government also recently reached a significant Buy Queensland milestone. It exceeded our target of ensuring 25 per cent of the procurement budget was invested with small to medium businesses. That has hit 28.5 per cent and will soon be at 30 per cent. That is an incredible record of success for the Palaszczuk government under Buy Queensland. I am proud of how this initiative is boosting local businesses.

At the roadshow at Morayfield last week—and I acknowledge the member for Morayfield is in the chamber—I was able to explain the benefits of the Buy Queensland policy to local businesses, and I thank the Minister for Public Works for allowing me to represent the government at this event. A total of 150 business owners and representatives from northern Brisbane all the way through to the Sunshine Coast attended this event which had to be expanded because of demand. So far the roadshows have been to Rockhampton, Bundaberg, Beenleigh, Toowoomba and Cairns, and further sessions are planned for Ipswich and Townsville.

At the roadshow I said to local businesses that we are now an Olympic city and the Olympic opportunities opening up before us are significant and unknown, limited only by our imagination. We talked about the Queensland government's early plans for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games and we talked about how they could be part of that journey and boost their business along the way. I am pleased to let the House know that 2,031 supply representatives have now registered their interest in receiving updates on Olympic procurement. That is a mighty outcome as well.

At the roadshow I also talked about the opportunities associated with some recent initiatives announced by the government. I mentioned how we are partnering with Fortescue Future Industries, which is building the electrolyser factory at Gladstone, and we talked about our commitment to building 64 trains at Maryborough, a \$7.1 billion investment. These offer significant supply chain opportunities to all the innovative businesses in our area. I commend the government for Buy Queensland.