




Speech By
Hon. Glenn Butcher

MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Manufacturing Industry

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (10.10 am): The Palaszczuk government understands the critical role that Queensland's manufacturers are playing as we deliver Queensland's economic plan to recover from the global COVID-19 pandemic. On this side of the House, we have always understood just how important it is to support local manufacturers to make it for Queensland. Through initiatives like our \$13.5 million Manufacturing Hubs Grant Program, we are strengthening the state's manufacturers and making a better future for all Queenslanders. To date, we have invested more than \$6.8 million in 25 companies to adopt advanced manufacturing technology and processes to help create 142 jobs in regional Queensland over the five years the program has been running. Through our Gladstone manufacturing hub we have invested almost \$1.7 million for eight companies, supporting the generation of 38 new jobs.

During my time as Minister for Manufacturing I have had the opportunity to visit grant recipients to see firsthand the positive impact this support is having on businesses and meet the people who are actually filling the jobs it is creating. For example, Mecha Engineering received \$243,605 to undertake a rapid reverse-engineering project which will allow multiple organisations within the region to collaborate and reverse-engineer parts on a large scale. I recently visited Mecha's facility, and our funding support has given the company the chance to leap into technological areas that were not thought possible in early 2020. Mecha's new state-of-the-art equipment will include handheld and in situ 3D laser scanners, a 3D printer for prototyping, a holographic wall for design and display, and software to integrate and operate the equipment. The new rapid reverse-engineering system will enable Mecha to manufacture plant and equipment spares locally and create jobs for five new workers and three new apprentices in Gladstone.

Berg Engineering received \$161,000 to purchase advanced line-boring equipment that will provide higher accuracy and finer cuts. With this funding, Berg Engineering can take its line-boring capability to the next level and seek to enter new markets such as defence, energy and mining, providing huge growth opportunities for the business.

Global Manufacturing Group was awarded \$257,000 and will boost its capability and international competitiveness with upgraded equipment. The company will now be able to bid on large local and national projects. We are also delivering similar positive outcomes for regional businesses in our other existing hubs in Cairns, Townsville and Rockhampton.

The Palaszczuk government will always support regional manufacturers to help them grow, stimulate regional economies and create good, long-term jobs for regional Queenslanders under this Palaszczuk government.