



Speech By  
**Hon. Glenn Butcher**


**MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE**

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Record of Proceedings, 11 May 2021

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Federal Budget, Manufacturing**

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (10.05 am): The federal government's \$1.3 billion Modern Manufacturing Initiative is a welcome program for the industry, so I rise today to make the case for getting our fair share for Queensland. There is good reason for this. Queensland manufacturers are not only leading our economic recovery but have even been, as we always do, delivering better outcomes for this nation than any other state in Australia. Those down in Canberra had better be listening today because the numbers prove it. Queensland has had the highest average manufacturing export value per capita for five consecutive years.

For the past few months my Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water has been working very closely with manufacturers right across the state to identify those projects that may be eligible for the funding in this federal program. There is a breadth of potential manufacturing projects across different sectors and across Queensland's regional communities that deserve their fair share. We have been working across our many regions in Queensland because the industry is vital to their development. Around 46,500 people are employed by regional manufacturing firms, a number I am sure that this federal government is acutely aware of given their many recent trips to this part of the state.

The Queensland government is committed to helping manufacturers transform their businesses, lift productivity and improve international competitiveness by adopting advanced manufacturing technologies and those practices. We are working with them every day on their shop floors and in their supply chains to innovate, to create a skilled workforce and to adopt world's best practice, and our support is working. A recent world economic annual report revealed exports from Queensland's manufacturing industry totalled \$17.7 billion. It is clear to see that the Queensland government is supporting our manufacturing firms to grow and to take advantage of new opportunities.

If the federal government is willing and open to supporting our industries, I would welcome it. However, that support must be on the production lines, not through press releases. Queensland is the manufacturing powerhouse of Australia. We punch well above our weight and we deserve our fair share of this federal budget tonight.