




Speech By
Hon. Glenn Butcher

MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Craft Brewers and Artisan Distillers

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (10.09 am): Queenslanders have a growing thirst for craft beer and artisan liquor, and so they should. Queensland's craft brewers and artisan distillers are innovative, dynamic, and proudly producing some of the best products in the world. As a strongly emerging part of the economy, they already offer a significant contribution to the state and our regional communities. The thriving industry, and the thousands of local jobs it supports, is set to grow further in Queensland thanks to recent Palaszczuk government reforms.

Since new laws were passed by this parliament on 9 March 2021, a strong contingent of artisan distillers and craft brewers from all corners of Queensland have taken the opportunity to apply for the new artisan producer liquor licence in Queensland. This new licence will increase market access, reduce regulatory burden, support new jobs and give those businesses a much needed boost following COVID-19 trading restrictions. Since the bill was passed, we have received over 72 applications for the new licence. I am pleased to say that 17 of those applications are for brand new businesses, which is great for local jobs.

While we would expect South-East Queensland producers to make up a large portion of applications, it is encouraging to see a number of regional applications as well. Leading the pack is Far North Queensland, with nine per cent; Mackay-Isaac-Whitsunday, with seven per cent; followed by Central Queensland, Wide Bay-Burnett and the Darling Downs and south-west region, with three per cent.

We have also established the Artisan Liquor Advisory Group to support ongoing discussions between industry and government. I was pleased to attend the inaugural meeting just a few weeks ago in Brisbane. Queensland is home to approximately 90 craft breweries and 34 artisan distilleries employing over 1,800 people in Queensland, many in our proud regional towns.

When we manufacture locally, we create more long-term and secure jobs for Queenslanders. For our craft brewing and artisan distilling industries, that means jobs in construction, operations, distribution, export and right throughout the manufacturing supply chain. That is something we in Queensland can all raise a glass to.