



Speech By  
**Julianne Gilbert**


**MEMBER FOR MACKAY**

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**PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT**

**Mackay Manufacturing Hub**

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (2.22 pm): Businesses are discovering that if they want something manufactured that is innovative and built to world-class standards then get it manufactured in Mackay. The Mackay engineering sector is bursting at the seams with highly skilled products being produced in our local workshops and designed and crafted locally.

This is why Mackay is home to the Palaszczuk government's sixth manufacturing hub, officially opened last week by the Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water, Glenn Butcher. Thank you, Minister. The hub is located at the Mackay Resources Centre of Excellence—another Palaszczuk government commitment delivered to my region. The hub will support manufacturers across initial key focus sectors—mining equipment, technology and services; resource recovery; and agriculture. Mackay has so many green shoots and new industries starting up.

The \$4 million commitment will support manufacturers across the Mackay-Isaac-Whitsundays region and links to the neighbouring hubs in Townsville and Rockhampton. The hub will help secure vital grants that help manufacturers increase capacity and capability, further improving the ability of businesses to compete with international markets.

At the opening, Ryan Norris from Vayeron said that the Mackay manufacturing hub will help develop the high-tech manufacturing segment in the industry through building the skills and knowledge base of those working in the manufacturing sector. Vayeron produce electronic equipment from scratch—the first manufacturer to do so in Mackay.

The minister and I took new hub employees—Deb and Laura—on a visit to some of the manufacturing stars of our region. Mainetec, a business built by Brett Hampson as a sole operator, now employs over 100 staff. Brett and his team design and build innovative mining buckets that require less steel and have a greater capacity for digging, saving time out on the field and reducing maintenance. D&T Hydraulics and Engineering is another family-based company that has grown into a manufacturing business, employing over 70 highly skilled tradespeople. The innovation of 3D printing powdered metals onto a hydraulic to be refurbished is incredible.

There is a lot going on in my region. These are just two really important businesses. Before finishing, I congratulate the students—past and present—teachers, staff and wider community of the Mackay Central State School on their 150th anniversary this weekend.

*(Time expired)*