




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Exports

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (10.09 am): Exports mean jobs and revenue so more exports mean more jobs and more revenue. Queensland is the nation's exports leader and we have broken new records again. In the 12 months to August, our merchandise exports reached \$127.5 billion, which is the highest level ever and twice as high as the same time last year. It is more than New South Wales and Victoria combined. Japan, India, Korea, China and Vietnam are our top five export destinations thanks to our commodities, agriculture, manufacturing and machinery and much more.

Every year we see an increase in not only the value of our exports but also their diversity given the wide range of goods we supply the world, and modern services as well. We saw that at the Premier's Export Awards. I thank the Treasurer and Minister for Trade. It was an excellent night. I also thank his staff. I believe it was one of the best award nights we have ever had. I thank all the ministers and caucus members who attended. It was a great night with the finalists and winners in all export categories. To give some examples—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Deputy Leader of the Opposition!

Ms PALASZCZUK:—the Creative Industries Award was won by Next Level Racing; the Agribusiness, Food and Beverages Award was won by Bundaberg Brewed Drinks; the Manufacturing and Advanced Materials Award was won by Sun Engineering; the Resources and Energy Award was won by Real Time Instruments; the Sustainability Award was won by Hydrobiology; the Professional Services Award was won by Medical Rescue; the Advanced Technologies Award was won by Helitak; the Women in International Business Award was won by Philippa Coleman and Fiona Wiebusch; the Emerging Exporter Award was won by Plungie; the Regional Exporter Award was won by Mort & Co. That names just a few. Congratulations to the winners who will have an important story of our state's economy to tell at the national awards. The overall Exporter of the Year Award went to Bundaberg Brewed Drinks. The member for Bundaberg was also very excited about that. It is a fantastic Queensland success story.

With all our international trade commissioners in the room as well as many diplomatic guests from our trading partners, it was the perfect moment to announce that Daniel Gschwind is the new chair of Trade and Investment Queensland. For more than 20 years, Daniel was the most recognised face of Queensland tourism. That experience and his understanding of international markets and local businesses make him perfect for the new role. We also thank his predecessor, Steve Bredhauer, for his great service to Queensland.

One-in-five Queensland jobs is linked to the export sector. With exports booming and the rest of the economy in strong shape, we set another record in August: the lowest unemployment rate since records began. The rate of 3.2 per cent beat the previous record of 3.3 per cent 14 years ago, in August

2008. There are now 214,700 more Queenslanders in work than there were in March 2020 and 178,700 of them are in full-time jobs. That means Queensland has added the most full-time jobs of any state or territory since the start of the pandemic. Exports and jobs are two of the many good reasons we say: Queensland, it is our time to shine.