




Speech By
Bruce Saunders

MEMBER FOR MARYBOROUGH

Record of Proceedings, 18 August 2022

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT

Maryborough Electorate, Manufacturing

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (2.45 pm): I rise to talk about the economic value of the Palaszczuk government to the Maryborough electorate and how good it is for businesses medium, small and large throughout my electorate. Recently I visited the Rheinmetall Nioa shell producing factory in Maryborough to watch the first shells come out. This is what a great government does. We worked with Rheinmetall Nioa and the federal government to locate this factory in our city which employs workers every day. It is skilling up our local workforce. It is a great factory that is the latest in advanced manufacturing.

Also to be based in Maryborough is ESI, Energy Storage Industries, which produces iron flow batteries. I know some on the other side do not understand what an iron flow battery is. This is bringing great jobs and a skill base to my city, once again backed by the Palaszczuk Labor government. No wonder our employment rate is down to 3.8 per cent across this state. We have a great government, a great Premier, Treasurer and cabinet that is leading the charge to create jobs in this state. I will say that again so it sinks in across the road—3.8 per cent. These iron flow batteries are very good. It will bring over 155 full-time jobs to my community. We are talking about renewable energy. We are talking about skilling the workforce in advanced manufacturing. I thank the Deputy Premier for turning the sod for the ESI factory, along with myself and the mayor of the Fraser Coast Regional Council.

In more great news—the good news keeps coming for Maryborough—AEG, Advanced Energy Group, will reopen the sugar mill. This is the first sugar mill in the history of this nation that was closed down and will reopen. It will be a biofuels hub. This will create more jobs in our community and make sure that the sugar industry is kept alive in the Maryborough electorate. Biofuels use a different type of cane. The Advanced Energy Group will invest a lot of money into the Maryborough electorate reskilling workers and employing new workers. Not only is Maryborough producing iron flow batteries but also it will be a hub for this new industry. It is all happening in the Maryborough electorate. These economic benefits are only made possible by the election of the Palaszczuk Labor government and through the great budget we delivered last month. That is what happens when you get a good government. That is why today our employment rate hit 3.8 per cent.