




Speech By
Hon. Glenn Butcher

MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

Record of Proceedings, 1 September 2022

MOTION

Jobs, Skills and Training

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (12.46 pm): I rise to speak in support of the motion. The Palaszczuk Labor government is a government for all of Queensland and all of the people of Queensland. Central to our efforts are good jobs, better services and a great lifestyle. I am proud to say that the industries covered by the manufacturing and water portfolios account for thousands of the jobs we are talking about today. We have seen 466,000 jobs delivered for Queenslanders since 2015, after the miserable years of LNP government. After that, the numbers are good.

Thanks to this year's budget, funding for our Made in Queensland grants and our hub grants program is at nearly \$130 million. Those grants have supported advanced manufacturing in this state and helped to secure 6,000 jobs in the manufacturing sector here in Queensland, thanks to this government. These critical grants are helping these businesses to arm themselves and their staff with the new skills and the new training that they need for the technology they need in those businesses—as well as boosting the capability and profitability of local manufacturing businesses.

This is in stark contrast to the LNP plan for manufacturers which was to ignore Queensland businesses, to gut funding from these vital grants programs and to send work offshore. Some 10,300 manufacturing sector jobs were lost under the former LNP government in its three-year reign. I really have to laugh when I see the member for Nanango's Facebook posts. Wherever she goes and takes a selfie, it is at businesses that have been supported through grants from the Queensland Labor government. She is out there saying, 'What a great business this is. It is good to be out and about at this wonderful manufacturer'—and 'I should be thanking Glenn Butcher for giving them a grant to make the business even better.'

This shows the hypocrisy of the LNP in Queensland. All its members do is float around the state, making out as though they are supporting small businesses and supporting skilling and training people. We know that all they did while in government was gut these programs, sack the workers and cut funding to skilling and training in Queensland. I give a pat on the back to the minister for skills and training. Not only is she making sure that we are preparing our kids and our people for work; she is also developing a plan. Those opposite never had one and never will.