




Speech By
Hon. Glenn Butcher

MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

Record of Proceedings, 2 December 2022

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Manufacturing

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (9.58 am): Our Queensland manufacturers are among the best in the world. On this side of the House we are doing everything we possibly can to support them. The Palaszczuk government support comes in a multitude of ways—all guided by our advanced manufacturing roadmap, which I announced an update to just recently.

That is not the only good news I have been able to share with our fantastic Queensland manufacturers lately. I recently travelled to Cirrus Ag in Rockhampton with the member for Rockhampton and the member for Keppel to announce that round 5 of our fantastic Made in Queensland grants program is officially open. Manufacturers have 10 more days to apply, so if you have manufacturers in your electorate now is the time to get them to apply. \$20 million will go towards grants that will help our Queensland manufacturers buy equipment for their workshops that they would not have been able to pay for alone or upskill staff and tap into Industry 4.0 and lean manufacturing practices here in our workshops. On top of that, we know these grants are creating good, solid jobs. At Cirrus Ag in Rocky, an MIQ grant this government gave to them has helped that business introduce a first-of-its-kind automated granular manufacturing facility and put on five more local workers. It is a similar story at all of the manufacturers I visit. Queensland government support is helping create good jobs and better services right across the state.

A common criticism of grants programs is that money is given out with a short-term view, but the repeated success of Made in Queensland proves that our manufacturers are thinking carefully about the grants they are applying for. My department and the teams at our manufacturing hubs right across Queensland are helping to ensure that rigorous processes are followed so money is not wasted. Across regional Queensland, since 2017 the Palaszczuk government's manufacturing grants program has supported more than 140 projects across the state through funding of \$68 million while creating and supporting more than 6,000 jobs, many of those in regional Queensland. Moving forward, we know that our Queensland manufacturers are going to play a critical role in the Energy and Job Plan in Queensland. There is no reason why we cannot build what we need right here, right now, in Queensland. Applications for round 5 of the Made in Queensland grants closes on 12 December, and I certainly look forward to announcing more grants for our wonderful Queensland manufacturers after that.