



Speech By  
**Hon. Glenn Butcher**

**MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE**

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Record of Proceedings, 20 April 2023

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**

### **Manufacturing**

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (10.04 am): Queensland is the place to be for manufacturing. For our manufacturing hubs in Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton, Gladstone and on the Gold Coast, the Palaszczuk government's hugely successful Manufacturing Hubs Grant Program is now open for its third round. We are offering Queensland manufacturers a share in \$10 million over the next two years to modernise their manufacturing practices and increase international competitiveness. Why are we doing this? Because when we support our manufacturing industry to grow, we create more jobs and secure jobs, and that is what this Labor Palaszczuk government is all about.

When announcing the grants, I visited past recipients including Keppel Brand Products, an innovative local, family-run food manufacturer that has now been able to grow their business and add 10 new jobs, thanks to this grant. I thank the member for Keppel for the visit. We had to, whilst we were there, taste some of their new products and I must say it was 10 out of 10. For those who like the odd dagwood dog at the Ekka, Keppel Dogs are one of their products as well.

I also met with Engineering Industries Australia in Townsville, Status Signs in Cairns, and the team from Mecha in the Gladstone region. Each one of these businesses told us that without investment by the Palaszczuk Labor government, they simply would not have been able to buy the new equipment to upskill their staff in the way that they have. These manufacturers have seized the opportunities facilitated by the Palaszczuk Labor government to grow their businesses, to create more good jobs and to boost the local economies in their areas. We created the Manufacturing Hubs Grant Program to support manufacturers. The result has been the creation of more than 300 jobs, all across regional Queensland.

Our manufacturing good news story does not stop there. With the announcement that train manufacturing is returning to Maryborough, it is great to see this investment will bring 800 new jobs to the region over the next 10 years. Under Labor, we are committed to supporting the manufacturing industry in Australia and securing our traditional industries like train building in Maryborough. That means good, secure jobs for years to come, and the workers that I talked to could not have been happier to be living in Maryborough and making trains again in that region.

When I was in Maryborough, I stopped by the member for Maryborough's office. He gave me a 3D printed train, a replica of a train that was manufactured in Maryborough many years ago. Under Labor, we are securing our traditional industries like train building in Queensland. Under the Labor government, we are investing in the next generation of advanced manufacturing technologies to take our industries to the next level. From building trains to 3D printing them, there is nothing our manufacturers cannot do here in Queensland, and the Palaszczuk Labor government is backing them all the way.