




Speech By
Hon. Glenn Butcher

MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Australian Manufacturing Week

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (10.13 am): The Palaszczuk government is supporting Queensland manufacturers because local made means local jobs. It was my pleasure to attend the Australian Manufacturing Week in Melbourne and to also host a networking breakfast and support my department's amazing work that they were doing at that event. This event is a major drawcard for manufacturers and manufacturing customers from all over the world and, with almost 20,000 people going through the facility and through the doors, it was an overwhelming success by any measure. I was proud to be there alongside some of our leading Queensland manufacturers not only to showcase the incredible work they are doing but also to promote Queensland as the place to be for manufacturing—in Australia and the world.

As part of the event, the Queensland government also sponsored the Women in Manufacturing event because we are committed to a more diverse, inclusive and bigger manufacturing workforce. At Australian Manufacturing Week my department handed out hundreds of 'Taste of Queensland' sample packs, which included macadamia nuts from Nutworks and gin from Sunshine and Sons—both in the mighty electorate of Nicklin; jerky from Mallorys Tocino in the manufacturing powerhouse of Kurwongbah; and sourdough crackers from Silver Tongue Foods in Maroochydore. That is right: we are spreading the love in manufacturing here in Queensland.

One of our Queensland manufacturers, Elexon Electronics, was an exhibitor at Australian Manufacturing Week, showing off their new capabilities. When I met with Elexon CEO Frank Faller at the event, he told me all about Elexon's recent work to adopt industry 4.0 manufacturing processes and how it has resulted in a one-of-a-kind manufacturing capability for the defence and aerospace industries.

Just to remind the House, Elexon Electronics received a Made in Queensland grant of \$890,000 in 2020 to increase production capacity, reduce manufacturing costs and create new job opportunities. Since then, Elexon has doubled its manufacturing capacity, implemented aerospace quality standards and started supplying to defence customers. Just in the last month, Elexon created eight brand new jobs in the business and plans to move to a new and larger purpose-built facility in the soon to be developed Technology Park in Petrie.

This is what the Palaszczuk Labor government and Made in Queensland program is all about—helping local manufacturers get to the next level, create more good jobs in Queensland and export their Queensland made products to the whole world.