



Speech By
Hon. Glenn Butcher

MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Women, Manufacturing

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (9.54 am): This week marks the first birthday of the Women in Manufacturing strategy in Queensland. This is a strategy we developed to attract and retain more women in Queensland's manufacturing industry. Over the past 12 months we have been delivering on the promises that we made. We have developed and delivered the Women in Manufacturing Strategy diversity, equity and inclusion toolkit, delivering workshops to around 20 manufacturing businesses in Brisbane, Townsville, Bundaberg, Gladstone, Rockhampton, Maryborough and Mackay, with more to come this year. Our Women in Manufacturing mentoring program is up and running, pairing 14 students with industry mentors and delivering regular mentoring sessions and site visits from those mentors.

Tonight we are premiering our documentary series with a VIP screening at the Elizabeth Street theatre. This docuseries, filmed and edited by Queensland filmmaking business PixelFrame, follows the personal stories of 10 women from a diverse range of businesses as they overcome hurdles and build a career in manufacturing in Queensland. Tomorrow we celebrate International Women's Day with our annual Women in Manufacturing Breakfast. This event, as I mentioned yesterday, will be attended by over 500 people. It also marks our 50th Women in Manufacturing Breakfast event. Tomorrow I will also have the honour of announcing our inaugural Women in Manufacturing Apprentice Awards. These awards recognise an apprentice who has demonstrated leadership and initiative on the workshop floor, provided support to other team members in the workplace, and shows resilience and effective communication skills.

While I am on my feet, I would like to take a moment to announce something pretty close to my heart: our ongoing partnership with Women's Rugby League in Queensland. Today I am thrilled to announce that we have signed a partnership with the mighty Brisbane Broncos to extend our promotion of Women in Manufacturing. That means our Women in Manufacturing Strategy will be promoted at every single Brisbane Broncos home game this year. Women's Rugby League started as a grassroots movement of women coming together in their communities to do something they love while facing the challenge of inadequate infrastructure and support. That is what I see with women in manufacturing—strong, resilient, determined women doing what they love and we as a government working to provide support and break down the challenges they face. It is up to us to create environments where both women and men are supported to their full potential in their workplace. Last year we partnered with the Gold Coast Titans, and I would like to thank them for their ongoing support which will continue in the 2024 season as well. What a wonderful opportunity to promote women in manufacturing. I look forward to working with both of these teams in 2024.

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the amazing women in my life: my wife, my daughter, my director-general, and all of my female staff in both my ministerial team and my office in Gladstone.