



Speech By  
**Hon. Glenn Butcher**


**MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE**

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Record of Proceedings, 21 March 2024

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Manufacturing**

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (10.26 am): It is good to be back! Good governments invest in local manufacturing. We know that a strong manufacturing sector in Queensland means a strong Queensland. Manufacturing is one of the largest employers in this state, supporting over 180,000 Queenslanders with good, secure jobs and thousands more jobs down supply chains in Queensland.

Since coming to government we have been delivering on our plan to strengthen Queensland's manufacturing sector. We have worked closely with industry to reinstate funding and support programs cut by the former LNP government. We have continued to invest in the manufacturing sector: more grants and more money directly into manufacturing businesses in Queensland; growing our manufacturing hubs program; and certainly delivering more manufacturing opportunities for Queensland workers such as bringing train manufacturing back to Maryborough rather than sending that work overseas.

Like many Queenslanders, manufacturing businesses need support when it comes to the cost of living in Queensland. When I meet grant recipients they tell me that without the support of the Queensland Labor government they would not have purchased new equipment for their businesses. Now, thanks to this Labor government, they have new equipment, new market opportunities and, best of all, new jobs on the ground.

Recently we started to roll out our Manufacturing Energy Efficiency Grant Program in Queensland. Do you know what that means, Mr Speaker? It means reduced energy bills for our manufacturers in Queensland. Thanks to more than \$7 million in funding from this government, local manufacturers across Queensland are installing energy-efficient equipment and slashing their energy bills—like Dean Street Bakery in Rockhampton, which will save thousands on their energy bills thanks to a grant from this government. Last week when I was in Rockhampton I visited this fantastic local food manufacturer. They received \$11,000 in funding to purchase a more energy-efficient prover retarder to cut down on energy waste. This has helped that business save over \$2,400 a year on their electricity bill, which owner Sam Hayman says will go a long way to easing the cost-of-living pressure on his business. Another business that is benefiting is Jabiru Aircraft in Bundaberg. They have been able to save almost \$3,000 a year off their energy costs thanks to a grant from this state government for new equipment in that manufacturing business.

Our energy efficiency grants are supporting businesses with the cost of living. Businesses told us they needed this support. We listened to Queenslanders and we delivered. Our Queensland manufacturers are now reaping the benefits of lower energy costs to do business in Queensland. The Miles government will always back our manufacturing sector because we want a future where we see more goods made in Queensland, not overseas.