




Speech By
Hon. Glenn Butcher

MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Manufacturing

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (10.02 am): The Miles government is doing what matters for Queenslanders, and that includes for our manufacturers in Queensland. We back our manufacturing sector because we support good, secure local jobs in Queensland. The Miles Labor government has expanded our manufacturing programs to help deliver energy efficiency measures and reduce energy costs and emissions. Our first round of our Manufacturing Energy Efficiency Grant Program has awarded 35 grants to local manufacturers, with these projects expected to achieve total electricity savings of 488,526 kilowatt hours per annum. This is a reduction of 398 tonnes of carbon equivalent emissions, saving businesses in Queensland almost \$126,000 annually. That is right, \$126,000 per year off the cost of doing business in Queensland.

This is about lowering energy bills and helping manufacturers move towards a low-carbon future in Queensland. There are businesses like Rockcote on the Sunshine Coast, which used their \$11,164 grant to replace their fluorescent lighting with LEDs at their Yandina factory, saving \$11,052 off their electricity bill annually and, importantly, reducing carbon emissions by 20 tonnes. Rockcote completed the changes in June and are already noticing the energy savings. They have also noticed significantly improved lighting within the workshop and offices, creating a safer and more productive working environment for their employees. Results from a recent staff survey showed a 92.3 per cent satisfaction rate for the new LED lighting within their workplace.

Blask Engineering in Inglewood were awarded almost \$25,000 to replace three aging welders with new energy efficient Fronius welders. They have been operating since February and Blask are now reaping the energy savings. They have also seen an increase in production time because of the new equipment that we supported them with. The new welders are expected to save 5,264 kilowatt hours of energy. That is a saving of \$1,969 per annum on energy costs and a five-tonne reduction in carbon emissions.

The Leader of the Opposition cannot be trusted to deliver the business support that our manufacturers need in Queensland because he could not even be trusted to run a business. These cost-of-living measures are delivering real results for our manufacturers, and I am thrilled to say there is so much more to come with an announcement on our next round coming soon.

I am proud to be part of the Miles Labor government which is helping our local manufacturers to ensure the manufacturing sector continues to grow in Queensland as well as helping our manufacturing sector to be more efficient in their businesses. When it comes to backing our manufacturers in Queensland, the Miles Labor government always delivers.