




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) (10.11 am): The Miles government is delivering for Queensland, including supporting our manufacturing sector. September is manufacturing month—an opportunity to highlight this incredible industry which contributes around \$20 billion a year into the Queensland economy and employs over 180,000 Queenslanders. As I have always said, if we can make it in Queensland we should. That is why we are making trains in Queensland. That is why we have invested \$270 million in supporting our manufacturers.

I kicked off manufacturing month in Mackay visiting manufacturer High Amp Maintenance. They are a welding and fabrication business that received more than \$176,000 in round 3 of the Manufacturing Hubs Grant Program. Thanks to this funding, they will purchase a CNC laser cutter and create 10 new full-time positions. I also met with Fatz Fabrication in Rockhampton to celebrate them receiving a \$94,000 grant. They will install a 3D scanner to increase their competitiveness and create six full-time jobs on the back of that grant.

So far, our three rounds of hubs grants and six rounds of Made in Queensland grants have created and supported nearly 8,000 jobs for Queenslanders. This is something that I am incredibly proud of, especially when members recall that we inherited a sector that had shed 10,000 manufacturing jobs under the LNP in Queensland.

We have achieved a lot, but we are not done in Queensland. I am pleased to announce today that round 4 of our Manufacturing Hubs Grant Program and round 7 of our Made in Queensland grants will be opening very shortly. That is \$25 million more available to our manufacturers to purchase the equipment they need to grow and create more jobs in Queensland.

I look forward to relaying this good news to our manufacturers tonight at the manufacturing showcase on the Speaker's Green. I encourage all members to attend, particularly those on the other side of the House, to see for themselves just how strong and diverse our manufacturing sector is in Queensland. If members need persuading, among the 36 manufacturers in attendance tonight will be Moffatt Beach Brewing, Priestley's Gourmet Delights—for those with a sweet tooth—Lick Ice Cream, which is a Queensland made ice cream manufacturer, and our First Nations food manufacturer FigJam & Co.

These new grant rounds are on top of the more than \$6.2 million I announced two weeks ago for manufacturers to install more energy-efficient equipment to cut emissions and drive down those local manufacturers' energy bills. Based on feedback from manufacturers, I announced that we would fund 100 per cent of eligible lighting projects for our local manufacturers and 75 per cent of efficiency programs up to a maximum of \$50,000. We have done this because the statistics show that lighting upgrades drastically reduce energy costs for our manufacturers which means more money in the pockets of our manufacturers. Labor will continue to support our amazing manufacturing industry because we back Queensland jobs, not cut them.