



Speech By  
**Hon. Dale Last**


**MEMBER FOR BURDEKIN**

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Record of Proceedings, 20 May 2025

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Train Manufacturing Program**

 **Hon. DR LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (10.05 am): We put Queenslanders and Queensland jobs first. Let me make this crystal clear: the Crisafulli government is committed to the Queensland Train Manufacturing Program. Those opposite have ducked and dived and knitted together a string of outright lies to mislead the good people of Maryborough, and Queenslanders more broadly, and I am here to set the record straight. Along with the member for Maryborough, who we can all agree is a fierce advocate for the Maryborough region—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member, did you use unparliamentary language?

**Mr LAST:** No.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Continue. We will check later on.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr LAST:** I withdraw. I visited the purpose-built Queensland train manufacturing facility at Torbanlea last week—for the second time, I might add—and saw for myself the ambition of this project and the work underway. Let me give you some numbers that the Crisafulli government, and especially our local member for Maryborough, can be proud of. Currently, there are 330 construction workers on site, of which 140 are local. Earthworks are continuing. The building's steel frame and roof installation are now complete and wall cladding is underway.

We are getting on with the job. These numbers are only going in one direction, and that is up: 1,300, the total number of construction jobs that will be created to get the Queensland Train Manufacturing Program up and running; 200, the number of blue-collar jobs that will ramp up over a 44-week period to support the manufacture of our new 65 trains—this includes 82 mechanical tradies, 58 fabrication workers, 31 sparkies as well as painters, trade assistants and test technicians; 100, the number of white-collar jobs required to deliver this project—engineers, designers, project managers and admin staff; and 148, the number of local contractors and businesses that will be providing goods and services to keep this project on track. These are jobs and opportunities for local people: jobs for apprentices, jobs for trainees, jobs for women and jobs for First Nations people. The current workforce also includes 34 apprentices and four trainees.

These trains are being built in Queensland, and Queenslanders have been central to their design. The QTMP accessibility project working group, which includes representatives of Queensland's disability sector, has played a key role in ensuring these trains will be compliant, functional and accessible for all passengers. Indeed, all 65 six-car QTMP trains will exceed the disability standards for accessible public transport, making them the most accessible trains in Queensland when they come into service.

Last week, members of the QTMP accessibility project working group visited the life-size, high-fidelity mock-up of the train in Geebung, a mock-up that was built by Maryborough-based, Indigenous owned business Allweld. They saw for themselves the benefit these trains will have for all passengers, including parents with prams, people travelling with bikes and e-scooters, and people with luggage.

Local jobs and accessible trains: that is the commitment of this government. Unlike those opposite who ran this project off the rails, QTMP is back on track, and we are proud of the jobs we are delivering to the Maryborough community.