



Speech By  
**Hon. Dale Last**


**MEMBER FOR BURDEKIN**

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Record of Proceedings, 26 June 2025

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Manufacturing**

 **Hon. DR LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (9.43 am): This budget marks a turning point for Queensland manufacturing, especially in our regions. Labor's scare campaign around manufacturing is over. We are delivering the Queensland Train Manufacturing Program as promised. I am pleased to inform the House that the Crisafulli government is also delivering on our commitment to strengthen Queensland's manufacturing capability with a new manufacturing hub to be established in Toowoomba. This is a \$10 million investment that backs regional jobs, local businesses and the industries that underpin our economic future.

The establishment of a manufacturing hub in Toowoomba was a key election commitment and one that we are proud to deliver in our first budget, but we have gone a step further. Through strong fiscal management, we are also delivering a second new hub on the Sunshine Coast within the same funding envelope, further expanding Queensland's regional manufacturing footprint. Manufacturing hubs are proven drivers of regional growth. They help local manufacturers access advanced technologies, improve productivity and create the skilled jobs of tomorrow. These hubs will also connect businesses with vital networks and support workforce development.

The Crisafulli government is further supporting our manufacturing sector with \$79.1 million in this budget for targeted grants through our Transforming Queensland Manufacturing Program. This program will provide grants to small and medium-sized businesses to: create manufacturing jobs in Queensland; support pathways for Queensland manufacturers to export; enhance our state's manufacturing sovereignty; support manufacturers to adopt advanced manufacturing technology; encourage private investment; and drive supply chain development. This is about unlocking a new wave of future focused manufacturing jobs right across Queensland—jobs that are skilled, technical and, more importantly, local. Manufacturing already contributes nearly \$27 billion to our economy each year and supports about 180,000 jobs. That number should grow, and under the Crisafulli government it will grow.

This budget sends a clear message. Queensland is open for business and we are serious about growing the industries that create long-term prosperity. The Crisafulli government is a government that delivers, and we are delivering a modern manufacturing sector that supports regional jobs and builds Queensland's future.