



Speech By
Hon. Dale Last

MEMBER FOR BURDEKIN

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Queensland Manufacturing Month

 **Hon. DR LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (2.32 pm): Queensland's manufacturing sector is a sleeping giant and the Crisafulli government is waking it. Manufacturing is our state's fifth largest industry. It employs more than 180,000 Queenslanders, contributes \$27 billion to our economy and generates more than \$24 billion in export earnings. A strong manufacturing base means more local jobs, more sovereign capabilities and more regional opportunities. During Queensland Manufacturing Month it is important that we recognise the enormous potential this industry holds and the work that the Crisafulli government is doing to unlock it.

After a decade of decline under Labor, Queenslanders are now seeing 10 months of delivery, including our \$79.1 million Transforming Queensland Manufacturing Program to help local businesses modernise, innovate and compete globally. This program will help manufacturers tap into new export opportunities and drive the next generation of high-tech, high-value jobs. There is also a \$10 million investment to expand manufacturing hubs in the regions, with new hubs opened in Toowoomba and the Sunshine Coast, delivering on our election commitment. These hubs give manufacturers practical support like skills development, tailored advice and pathways to scale up and create jobs—promise made, promise delivered. We are also getting the Queensland Train Manufacturing Program back on track. This project will support more than 1,300 jobs over its life and recruitment is well underway.

Queensland Manufacturing Month is not just a chance to showcase what our industry is already achieving; it is an opportunity to look ahead, and later this month we will take another step forward when we launch the Transforming Queensland Manufacturing strategy. It is a plan developed with industry to ensure our manufacturers are globally competitive, future ready and equipped to seize new opportunities in both traditional sectors and emerging markets like defence, aerospace and critical minerals. Our message is clear: the Crisafulli government believes in manufacturing in Queensland and we are providing the support to match.

Earlier this month I had the privilege of joining the Women in Manufacturing breakfast in Cairns. This event brought together a network of leaders, innovators, tradeswomen and business owners and school students who are shaping the future of manufacturing in Far North Queensland. The Women in Manufacturing program is about making sure that those women see a future for themselves on the production floor, in the labs, working the tools and in leadership roles. It is about making sure that as we grow the manufacturing sector in Queensland women are also part of that story.

Queensland Manufacturing Month reminds us all that our state has the talent, the ideas and the drive. What manufacturers need is a government that backs them, and the Crisafulli government is doing just that with a clear plan focused on results. As a born and bred North Queenslander, I know how important manufacturing is to regional Queenslanders and I also know our manufacturing sector relies on the strength of our other great industries like mining to grow and sustain regional workforces.

Last month I met with Jack Trenaman from SMW Group which builds truck trays for mines from its workshop in Rockhampton. He told me about how the Crisafulli government's support for the Bravus Carmichael coalmine expansion, which we announced last month, will benefit regional manufacturers like his business. He said our support for that mine expansion—

... means being able to sustain our workforce. Having that commitment from Bravus and other mines to build new trays here regionally in our Rockhampton facility ... means a spin off for all the regional communities with off site services that supply us, and the 30 to 40 trainees and apprentices every year that we're putting out there.

This is what the Crisafulli government is delivering. Queenslanders remember all too well the approach to the Carmichael mine taken by those opposite. During Labor's decade of decline, companies were tied up in red tape, projects sat on desks for years and major policies changed overnight as inner-city activists dictated the agenda. Labor never supported the Carmichael project and it never supported the great manufacturing jobs that people like Jack Trenaman are creating in Rockhampton off the back of it. The Crisafulli government is backing the industries that power this state. We are delivering opportunities to Queensland's regions. Whether it is the trains in Maryborough or advanced agtech in Cairns, we want more things made in Queensland by Queenslanders and we are waking the sleeping giant to create jobs in manufacturing and delivering a better lifestyle through a stronger economy for every Queenslanders.