




Speech By
John Barounis

MEMBER FOR MARYBOROUGH

Record of Proceedings, 20 May 2025

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Train Manufacturing Program

 **Mr BAROUNIS** (Maryborough—LNP) (2.50 pm): Last week I had the great privilege of welcoming the Hon. Dale Last, Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development, to our region. Together we visited the Queensland Train Manufacturing Program site at Torbanlea. At a time when there have been rumours circulating about job losses at Downer, I want to make this perfectly clear—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): Order, members!

Mr Miles interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, I warn you under the standing orders. If that continues, you will not be the last one.

Mr BAROUNIS: I want to make this perfectly clear: Labor's allegations of job cuts at QTMP are a complete fabrication. The reality is the complete opposite: our actions are creating more jobs.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I find it difficult to hear members in the back row. The interjections are too loud. Keep them down please.

Mr BAROUNIS: Our actions are creating more jobs: 1,300 is the number of construction jobs; 200 is the number of blue-collar jobs; and 100 is the number of behind the scenes jobs. Minister Last, along with Minister Mickelberg, has been very clear: the LNP Crisafulli government supports the Queensland Train Manufacturing Program and jobs here in Maryborough are secure. They are secure.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BAROUNIS: They do not know. To date, 148 local suppliers have been engaged—and that number is only going to grow. This is a monumental boost to our local economy.

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Mr Lee interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I warn the member for Clayfield and the member for Hervey Bay. I cannot hear the member at the back of the chamber. If there are any further interjections, I will start warning people en masse. I hope that this is the last time I have to interrupt the member for Maryborough on his feet. I will be very disappointed if I have to.

Mr BAROUNIS: This project is about so much more than trains. It is about jobs, growth and putting Maryborough on the map as a hub for advanced manufacturing. Labor ran QTMP off the rails with blowouts, delays and cover-ups. The Crisafulli government is getting it back on track. As our region grows, I fully support the development of new housing to accommodate workers and families moving into the area.

Mr Smith interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Bundaberg is warned under the standing orders.

Mr BAROUNIS: Maryborough is a welcoming, family focused community, and we are ready to open our arms to those who want to be part of this exciting future. Already, businesses across the region—from welding shops to hair salons—are feeling the flow-on benefits of this project. One standout is Allweld Manufacturing, led by Josh Linwood, which played—

Ms Enoch interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Algeester is warned under the standing orders.

Mr BAROUNIS:—a crucial role in building the high-fidelity mock-up train. That mock-up train is now on display in Brisbane for stakeholders and the response has been overwhelmingly positive.

I am excited. My community is excited. I want to thank Minister Dale Last, the Crisafulli LNP government and all of those behind the QTMP for their unwavering commitment, not just to me but to the people of this electorate. When we see those Olympic and Paralympic trains roll out in 2032, we will be able to proudly say, 'They were made in Maryborough—

Mr Ryan interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Morayfield is warned under the standing orders.

Mr BAROUNIS:—during the term of the Crisafulli LNP government and John Barounis as the state member.'