




Speech By
Hon. Ros Bates

MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA

Record of Proceedings, 2 April 2025

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Construction and Manufacturing Industries, Training and Skills

 **Hon. RM BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (2.40 pm): I rise to update this House on the progress of the Crisafulli LNP government's efforts to tackle Labor's skill shortage by backing Queensland's construction and manufacturing industries. We on this side of the House know just how critical these industries are to Queensland's future. The construction industry is not only our state's third largest employer but is also the industry responsible for the delivery of our housing stock. Moving forward, this industry will also be critical to our state's ability to build the infrastructure and legacy projects needed for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Within the construction industry, Construction Skills Queensland is empowered to deliver the training needed to create a pipeline of skilled workers across all trades. I am pleased to advise that the Crisafulli LNP government is continuing to deliver on its commitment to improving productivity and training in Queensland and renewing the board of Construction Skills Queensland with the appointment of Ms Sue-Ann Fresneda as chair. As a long-serving director of CSQ and deputy CEO of Master Builders Queensland, the new chair is well placed to drive the reforms Queensland needs to grow our skilled workforce of the future. Construction Skills Queensland will also welcome two new directors—Adrian Gabrielli and Kate Raymond, who bring a wealth of experience at the coalface of the construction industry, including an owner-operator and a peak body leader and industry advocate. These are experienced individuals who understand the complexities of the industry and who are well placed to help shape it as we progress to 2032.

Turning to the manufacturing industry, which employs almost 180,000 people across Queensland, the Crisafulli LNP government is delivering on its commitment to maximise the industry's true potential by repairing the skills shortage caused after a decade of neglect by the former Labor government. A refreshed Manufacturing Skills Queensland board will see a significant increase in manufacturing know-how, with a combined 70 years of industry expertise now added to the board. Employees within the industry will be well represented by the incoming directors who have built their businesses around manufacturing innovation, operational excellence and the skills development of young workers. The board will be led by industry advocate Ms April Kavanagh, who brings significant experience in governance and has a background in the manufacturing industry, finance, technology and agribusiness.

I look forward to working closely with each of these boards to deliver a fresh start for Queensland's construction and manufacturing industries as we create the pipeline of skilled workers needed to build Queensland's future. I am proud to be part of a Crisafulli LNP government which has gotten straight to work on fixing Labor's mess, including making sure the right people are in the right positions to deliver for Queensland. Unlike those opposite, I will continue to work closely with the manufacturing and construction industries—not just the unions—to ensure the boards have the people and the resources that they need to get on with the job of a fresh start for Queensland.