




Speech By
Hon. Ros Bates

MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA

Record of Proceedings, 12 June 2025

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

United States of America, Trade Tariffs; Trade Mission, China and Hong Kong

 **Hon. RM BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (10.30 am): While Queensland is less exposed to tariffs from the USA than other Australian states and territories, it is no secret that tariffs and non-tariff barriers have increased volatility when it comes to trade and investment. Beyond the direct impact of higher prices on Queensland exports to the US, tariffs can also increase investment uncertainty and supply chain complexity and complicate trade flows with our trading partners. However, the Crisafulli LNP government also recognises that tariffs present unique opportunities for export substitution and diversification that can benefit Queensland businesses.

While foreign affairs remains the responsibility of the federal government, it is incumbent on us as a state government to ensure that our Queensland exporters are supported during this time of volatility. We know that affected businesses are looking to our government for advice and leadership at this time, which they never saw from those across the floor. We are guiding Queensland businesses in the trade space. We are helping them to explore other markets and to mitigate risks.

To assist local exporters, I have asked Trade and Investment Queensland to form a dedicated Tariff Response Unit to coordinate support to exporters impacted by the rolling US tariffs that were stood up on 2 April this year. This unit is delivering a 100-day plan that includes a series of regional round tables and webinars to provide information to exporters, along with online resources and tools. Unlike Labor, we deliver on our plan. This is what making sure Queensland is open for business looks like. Round tables have been held in Cairns, Townsville, Toowoomba, Mackay and Ipswich in May and early June, and the next series will be held in Brisbane over the coming weeks. Whilst there may be uncertainty surrounding trade tariffs, Queenslanders can rest assured that when it comes to trade and investment, the Crisafulli LNP government is here to support businesses. Industry round tables are occurring through to July for targeted sectors, including food and agribusiness, mining, resources and energy, manufacturing and technology and creative industries.

In addition, online resources and tools are available such as the Trade and Investment Queensland Tariff Hub to help exporters make the best decisions for their businesses. These resources will continue to support Queensland businesses as the US tariff policy continues to evolve and international markets adapt. Staff throughout the Trade and Investment Queensland global network are also working diligently to provide information and advice direct to Queensland businesses.

As the trade minister, I am continuing to re-establish relationships with our critical trade partners after years of neglect by Labor and their haphazard approach. I have been on three trade missions so far and there are more to come as the Crisafulli LNP government works hard to put Queensland back at the forefront of the global trade landscape. We are hard at work delivering for Queensland, just like we said we would. My colleague, the Minister for Primary Industries, is currently in Japan and South Korea as we work together as a government, laying the foundations for a fresh start for Queensland after a decade of crisis and chaos from those opposite.

During my most recent trade mission, I visited China and Hong Kong, and I am pleased to report that those deals are already flowing. As mentioned previously, I had the opportunity to formally open a new Trade and Investment Queensland office in Shenzhen, further cementing Queensland's presence in that fast-developing Greater Bay area and providing a local hub to deliver deals and results for Queensland. I was pleased to reassure trusted partners in Shanghai, Hong Kong and Shenzhen that Queensland can successfully navigate the current erratic global trade environment on account of the stability, certainty and growth opportunities the Crisafulli LNP government provides to our international trade partners—far more so than under those opposite as I outlined here earlier this week.

During my trade mission, I also opened the Queensland pavilion at this year's Hofex trade show, Asia's largest food, beverage and hospitality trade exhibition. I can report that 191 new leads have already been generated for the participating Queensland companies and already more than \$3.99 million in outcomes are in the pipeline.

We are continuing to monitor all developments and impacts of US trade policies, and the Crisafulli LNP government will continue to support local businesses during this uncertain time for international trade. Queensland is open for business.