



Speech By
Hon. Ros Bates

MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Trade and Investment

 **Hon. RM BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (9.52 am): The Crisafulli LNP government is delivering on its promise to restore Queensland's global reputation for excellence, innovation and economic leadership. Following a decade of decline under Labor, the Crisafulli LNP government is serious about supporting our local exporters to diversify in the wake of international trade volatility and showing our partners that Queensland is open for business.

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Woodridge, you are very close to a warning.

Ms BATES: That is why I have just returned from my fifth international trade mission as Minister for Trade.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Ms BATES: During this mission, I led 35 meetings and engagements in a two-week long trade mission to the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom and to Spain and Germany in the European Union. Before I departed, I launched the *Queensland-Europe & United Kingdom Trade and Investment Strategy 2025-2028*, part of a blueprint series guiding our state's engagement with some of our most significant trading and investment partners over the next three years.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: There is only one person who has the call. The cross-chamber quarrelling will cease.

Ms BATES: If considered a single country, the European Union would have ranked as Queensland's fifth-largest goods export market last year. The strategy recognises Europe and the UK are valuable partners in shaping the future—economically, strategically and culturally—and outlines a plan to leverage these opportunities to deliver the benefits that Queenslanders deserve. Through the Crisafulli LNP government's new strategy and my trade mission, we are building on the export success that Queensland companies already have in these markets. Europe and the UK are vital markets for Queensland and are strategic partners offering emerging opportunities—from aerospace and defence industries, digital innovation, advanced technologies and creative industries.

Building on the Deputy Premier's visit in September, my mission positioned Queensland business and industry to capture greater opportunities arising from agreements with the UK, UAE and the EU FTA currently under negotiation. In London we celebrated the growth of Gold Coast company ABI Interiors by officially opening its new 1,440 square metre distribution hub near London Gatwick Airport to service UK and European markets. I conducted meetings on further opportunities for Queensland beef exports, which have already surged to \$94.9 million in June 2025 following the elimination of tariffs under the Australia-UK FTA.

In Frankfurt, I continued to grow key German partnerships, like that with RWE, with Fraunhofer and the University of Queensland on energy storage R&D projects, and with German banks on infrastructure investment pathways. In Madrid, the focus was on investment ties and, importantly, energy. I met with a number of Spanish energy companies, such as Acciona, EDP and Iberdrola, which have a range of projects either proposed or underway in our state.

At each meeting with an energy company, I took the opportunity to give a high-level overview of the Crisafulli LNP government's new Energy Roadmap, highlighting that this government remains committed to a target of net zero by 2050, but it will not be arbitrarily closing our base-load coal-fired electricity generators and pushing up prices for Queenslanders. I am very pleased to report that this was very well received by all energy stakeholders, with several noting that a smoother energy transition would ensure that power prices could be better managed in the years ahead.

In the United Arab Emirates I promoted Queensland's investment opportunities and trade, including a Queensland exporters roundtable. I also note the very strong interest from a range of hotel developers in Brisbane and across the state ahead of the 2032 Olympics.

As we approach our first year in government, I have undertaken five missions to 10 major markets, rebuilding the international relationships that withered under those opposite so we can deliver new opportunities for Queensland businesses. Through trade missions like these, we are ensuring Queensland businesses, from small and family exporters to major industry leaders, have the tools and support to compete and thrive. We are delivering a program to repair Queensland's global relationships after a decade of Labor decline because we know that strong trading relationships will underpin the economic growth essential for Queenslanders to build the lifestyles they deserve. International engagement is vital to the success of our state, and these trade missions deliver more jobs and better outcomes for Queensland. Under the Crisafulli LNP government we are a Queensland of opportunity—a Queensland that is open for business.