




Speech By
Hon. Ros Bates

MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Trade

 **Hon. RM BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (2.22 pm): After a decade of Labor decline, under the Crisafulli LNP government Queensland is open for business once again and we are making sure the world knows it. In our first 10 months we delivered Queensland's first ever global business brand—something those opposite could not manage in a decade. Queensland of Opportunity showcases Queensland as Australia's premier destination to invest, trade, study and work. It delivers a clear, unified message about Queensland's economic strengths, our skilled workforce, our strategic location, our opportunities for study and research, and our ambitious growth agenda.

Already, the Premier and I have directly delivered the Queensland of Opportunity brand to markets in India, Japan and Indonesia, across Europe and in the UAE. We are not stopping there. My next trade mission will build on the Crisafulli LNP government's strategic approach to restoring Queensland's reputation on the world stage, delivering real commercial outcomes for Queensland exporters while attracting investment by reaffirming this is a Queensland of Opportunity that is open for business.

I will be delivering our global business brand directly to the largest trade show on earth—the China International Import Expo—alongside Queensland's largest ever delegation to the expo. The Queensland of Opportunity pavilion, which I will officially launch at the expo, will showcase new trade opportunities on a global stage for Queensland exporters. This builds on our success earlier this year at Hofex, where I led a delegation of 15 Queensland businesses to generate \$3.99 million in export outcomes, securing close to 200 new trade leads.

Our trade missions are already creating new local jobs so that Queenslanders can get on with building the lifestyle they deserve. Just the other week, the Crisafulli LNP government's efforts to restore Queensland's global reputation and attract international investment in Queensland saw Graphinex secure US backing for its graphite project in North Queensland. The project, which is expected to create more than 200 jobs, has been fast-tracked by our government and is another example of the Crisafulli LNP government delivering exceptional outcomes for Queensland and a fresh start for our international partnerships. Credit goes to Minister Last for his excellent involvement in this outcome for Queensland.

Also just last week we announced that under a Crisafulli LNP government 180 new jobs will be delivered in Far North Queensland. The Crisafulli government, via QIC, has made a \$30 million investment into the Mourilyan Silica Sands Project. This will support the export of more high-quality silica, positioning the Cassowary Coast as another Queensland player in global critical mineral supply chains. It is just one of the many ways the Crisafulli government is delivering for Queensland by restoring the state's reputation on the world stage after a decade of decline and missed opportunities under Labor.

By working tirelessly to repair the trading relationships that those opposite damaged, we will ensure the world knows that under the Crisafulli LNP government Queensland is open for business. In fact, in this financial year to date, thanks to the Crisafulli LNP government's ambitious international engagement program, Trade and Investment Queensland has already facilitated investment outcomes valued at \$272 million, which is expected to create 143 Queensland jobs. Throughout Labor's decade of decline exports were transactional, relationships were an afterthought, Queensland's export potential sat idle and investment opportunities were missed. Just 12 months in I am pleased to report that, under the Crisafulli LNP government, we are delivering a QueensLand of Opportunity—a Queensland that is open for business.