



Speech By  
**Hon. Ros Bates**

**MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA**

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Record of Proceedings, 3 March 2026

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Trade**

 **Hon. RM BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (10.29 am): The Crisafulli LNP government is delivering for Queensland businesses and supporting them to compete and succeed on the global stage. On this side of the chamber we know that Queensland exporters are at the heart of our state's economy. During this time of global trade volatility we are doing what those opposite did not: supporting our local exporters to diversify to new markets, seize new opportunities and succeed on the global stage.

Now more than ever our exporters need to be able to pivot and respond to changing international trade conditions, and we are backing them every step of the way to do so. We are providing practical support, advice and guidance to adapt to the changing global landscape and to identify new markets and how to strike when the opportunities present themselves. A key example of this is our Market Accelerator Program. It is a new program designed to equip businesses with the tools that they need to thrive in highly competitive international markets. They can be experienced exporters, new to exports or looking for an injection to enter into a new market after much planning. Through matched grants of up to \$30,000, we are giving these businesses the opportunity to fast-track their global ambitions and secure contracts in new markets. Through the Market Accelerator Program we are investing \$750,000 to help our exporters reach new heights, and we are encouraging all businesses across the state to take advantage of it. Even the member for Cairns is excited about the wonderful opportunities now on offer thanks to the Crisafulli LNP government delivering for Queensland. This is in stark contrast to the decade of decline under the former Labor government—and it was nice to see the member using his social media platform for good for a change.

The Market Accelerator Program delivers more than just grants; it enables our businesses to take their place on the world stage and proudly fly the flag of innovation and enterprise. Delivered by Trade and Investment Queensland, the Market Accelerator Program is a vital part of our broader strategy to boost economic growth and create jobs across the state, because when Queensland businesses succeed the whole state succeeds. They create jobs for Queenslanders, generate investment in our communities and strengthen our economy for the future.

Our government is responding in real time to the needs of our exporters. We know that some Queensland businesses will be impacted by the conflict in the Middle East so we are supporting them to adapt and mitigate the fallout of the situation, where possible. We are extending the application period for the Market Accelerator Program to Friday, 13 March to enable businesses affected and looking to pivot immediately to access matched funding of up to \$30,000 to navigate that process. The Market Accelerator Program is yet another example of how we are fostering growth, innovation and resilience in our state's economy and supporting our local exporters to adapt to international headwinds. After a decade of decline under those opposite, the Crisafulli LNP government is committed to ensuring our economy thrives and telling the world that Queensland is back and open for business.