

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 636

asked on 22 June 2022

MRS D FRECKLINGTON ASKED THE MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MANUFACTURING AND MINISTER FOR WATER (HON G BUTCHER)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise what actions the Minister is taking to address the chronic shortage of labour in manufacturing businesses across Queensland?

ANSWER:

Given both the absence of a source to support the premise of the question and specificity in relation to which aspects of the manufacturing sector the Member is referring to, the below response will outline examples of the actions within my portfolio to support job creation and skills development in Queensland's manufacturing sector.

Queensland has a strong and thriving manufacturing sector. In 2020–21, Queensland's manufacturing industry contributed \$22.3 billion to the State's economy and currently employs 192,000 people. Despite the challenges and disruptions caused by COVID-19 over the last two-years, manufacturing employment increased by 21,000 people over the year to March 2022.

While no sector of the economy has been immune to the impacts of COVID-19, including the impacts of restricted labour movement in Australia and abroad, Queensland's manufacturing sector has proved incredibly resilient and adaptable in the face of these challenges. The fact that this sector continues to grow is proof of this.

The Queensland Government has a strong record of supporting manufacturers including through the development of initiatives and strategies that bolster skills development and create more local jobs. Examples of this support in my portfolio include:

- the Advanced Manufacturing 10-Year Roadmap and Action Plan which will drive economic growth and job creation in Queensland and support the State's manufacturing sectors, which are vital to growing and diversifying Queensland's regional economy and creating jobs of the future;
- the \$101.5 million Made in Queensland grant program and the \$28.5 million Manufacturing Hubs Grant Program which are helping to generate high-skilled jobs for the future thanks to our government's investment in small and medium manufacturers in Queensland; and
- our six permanently funded Manufacturing Hubs across Queensland which support manufacturers by providing expert advice and other services including business development programs, skills development and training programs and workshops to build awareness of advanced manufacturing. The hubs also have strong links

with local universities, schools and TAFE Queensland to develop a workforce with strong skills in science, technology, engineering and maths.

These initiatives and investments are supporting growth and job creation across Queensland's manufacturing sector and ensuring the development of a workforce that can meet the needs of the sector both now and into the future.

We will continue to invest in these important programs, rather than cutting them.

There are several other significant initiatives supported by the Queensland Government that focus on skills development in the manufacturing sector, including in emerging industries. Questions in relation to information on these important initiatives can be found online and if the Member has any further questions, they should be directed to the relevant ministers.