



**Manufacturing is a vital sector of the Queensland economy, growing more rapidly than the rest of Australia.**

Last year 20,000 manufacturing jobs were created in Queensland, bringing the State's total manufacturing workforce to more than 200,000.

Today one in five jobs created in Queensland is created in the manufacturing industry.

Contributing \$12B to the economy, manufacturing is in fact the life-blood of Queensland industry.

The Queensland Government is committed to ensuring manufacturing remains a sustainable, profitable and technology-oriented sector.

That is why the Government introduced the Smart State - World Class Manufacturing project in 2003.

For the past two years the Government has worked with agencies and industry to make sure that manufacturers can access the right people, the right ideas and the right skills to keep them at the leading edge.

Central Queensland is pivotal to the State's manufacturing capabilities.

One in 10 people is employed in manufacturing in Central Queensland.

The region is well-known for its capabilities in value-added manufacturing. It is also respected for its pro-business attitude, well developed infrastructure and highly-skilled workforce.

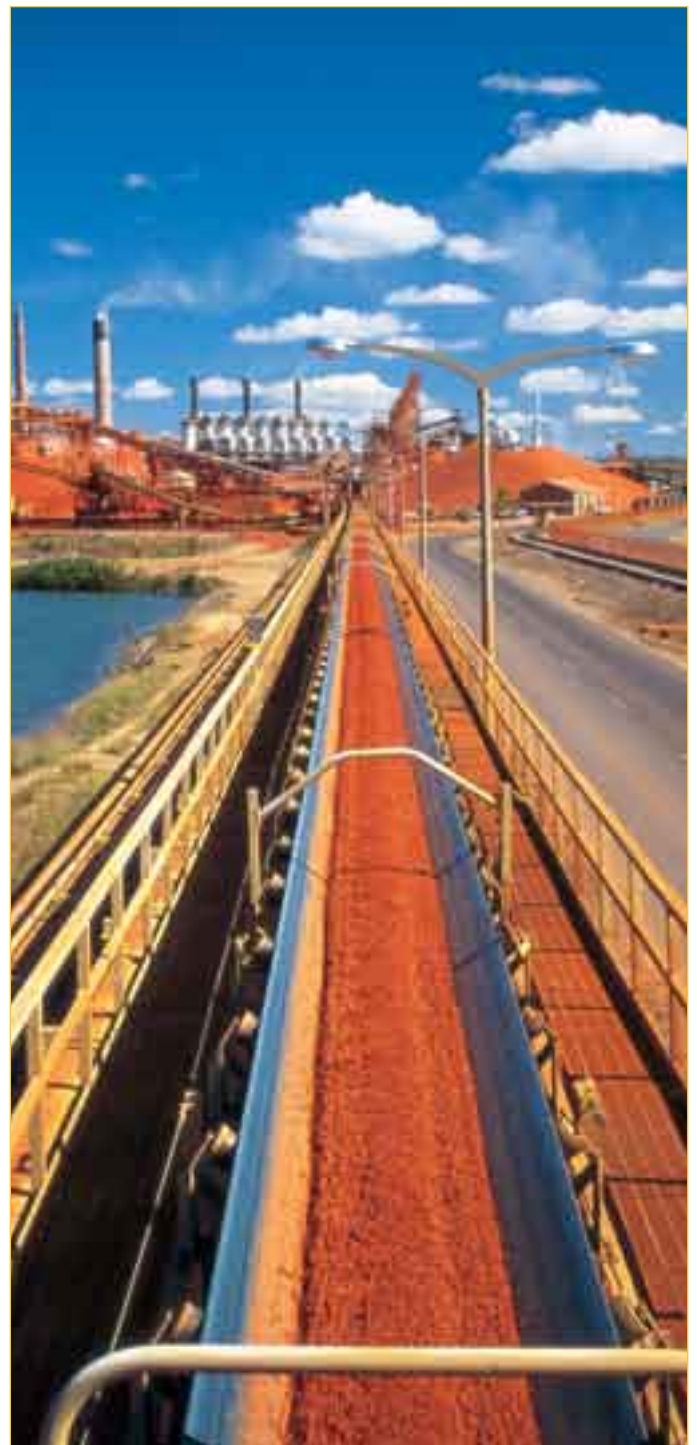
To build on Central Queensland's advantages and further develop local manufacturing capabilities for the region, the Government has introduced a \$3M initiative under the Advanced Manufacturing Plan.



## The Central Queensland Manufacturing Region Initiative

Over three years the Queensland Government will invest \$3M in practical initiatives to accelerate key drivers of growth:

- Productivity improvements
- Skills and training
- Technology enhancement
- Supporting industry investment





### Productivity improvements

A full-time manufacturing specialist, based in Rockhampton and servicing the Central Queensland region, will be appointed to deliver technical expertise and help industry respond to specific needs. The specialist will be available to assist firms improve performance through such methods as “lean manufacturing” and adoption of relevant technologies. Through this appointment Central Queensland manufacturers will also be able to access the technological resources and experience of specialists based at QMI Solutions (previously known as the Queensland Manufacturing Institute).



### Technology enhancement

A technology enhancement program, in collaboration with the Welding Technology Institute of Australia and the Central Queensland Institute of TAFE, will be introduced to upgrade welding capabilities to international standards. A welding technology manager, based in Gladstone and servicing the Central Queensland region, will be appointed to work with small and medium-sized manufacturers to improve performance through measures such as: telephone and on-site technical support; technology development; group technology; and best practice demonstrations.



### Skills and training

To secure a greater number of apprentices and trainees, new initiatives will be introduced in association with Fitzroy Industry Regional Skills Training, including training to increase school students' exposure to manufacturing careers through industry and school partnerships in Gladstone and Rockhampton. A program will also be investigated to identify possible trades mentors to supervise in-house training of apprentices at small and medium-sized manufacturers. This will free up the time for qualified tradespeople and help them focus on improving productivity. Ongoing training activities implemented by the Department of Employment and Training will continue to be supported through the Central Queensland Training Employment Strategy and the Government's \$1B SmartVET initiative.



### Supporting industry investment

Central Queensland has world-class capabilities in base metals, light metals, coal, industrial minerals and agribusiness. Together with the region's infrastructure capabilities, access to competitively priced industrial land serviced with power, gas, water, transport and waste disposal, Central Queensland presents a strong business case for potential new investors. A detailed Business Case and profile outlining the region's competitive advantages has been developed and will be marketed domestically and internationally.

Funding will also be provided to assist to identify emerging industry development and investment opportunities, including feasibility studies for attracting new investment.

## Where to from here?

Over three years the Government, through the Rockhampton and Gladstone State Development Centres, will work with industry and other stakeholders to accelerate growth in manufacturing in Central Queensland.

Through the \$3M Central Queensland Manufacturing Region Initiative the Government will build on the area's competitiveness by supporting productivity improvements, identifying skills

development needs, technology enhancement opportunities and stimulating new investment.

Central Queensland is an important part of the State's manufacturing landscape. Through this initiative the Government is providing Central Queensland manufacturers with an important opportunity to ensure it remains a sustainable, profitable and technology-oriented sector.



# For more information

on any of the Department's comprehensive ranges of services contact

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