



Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Biofuels Cabinet Committee

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.37 am): My government is determined to support the increasing diversification of economic growth to make our economy more resilient and to create jobs for the future. Yesterday I met with Vice Admiral Robert Thomas, Commander of the United States Navy 7th fleet, along with Mr Hugo Llorens, Consul-General to the United States, to discuss how Queensland can provide support through our emerging industrial biotechnology sector for the Great Green Fleet initiative.

Other exciting opportunities for Queensland's industrial biotechnology sector include: the target from Virgin Australia for carbon neutral growth by 2020, as well as the moves by Qantas to move towards cleaner fuels; and the seven industrial biotechnology bio-refining opportunities identified by Deloitte Access Economics and QUT that could generate commercial returns, including two opportunities in North Queensland, one in the Mackay area, one in Central Queensland, two in the Wide Bay region and ethanol in the Darling Downs region. Capitalising on these opportunities will require a focused and coordinated approach across government to support an industrial biotechnology sector.

That is why I will chair a Biofuels Cabinet Committee, with the first meeting to be held within the next two months. The focus of this committee will be broader than just the production of biofuels, and will include plastics and other materials that can be produced from organic materials. Other members of the Biofuels Cabinet Committee will include the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy and Water Supply, the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and Minister for Sport and Racing, the Minister for Environment, the Minister for Science and Innovation, and the Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland.

Mayors of local government councils with an interest in the sector and leading academics will also be included in meetings of the Biofuels Cabinet Committee. I have spoken at length about the need to diversify our economy. Our biofuels agenda will play a big role in that process. We have already proven through LNG that Queensland has the capability to kickstart new industries. Biofuels has the potential to be a key part of Queensland's economic story into the future, and my government is keen to facilitate this.