



Speech By  
**Glenn Butcher**


**MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE**

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**MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Gladstone Electorate, LNG Industry**

 **Mr BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (12.11 pm): I rise today to speak with pride of the continuing contribution my electorate of Gladstone is making to the growth of Queensland through its industrial city status. The badge 'industrial city' is gladly worn by the people who acknowledge the opportunities that come with that label in terms of generating jobs, advancement, opportunity and wealth.

On Friday, 16 October Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk was in Gladstone with Minister Anthony Lynham to share the excitement of the maiden Santos GLNG shipment. This project's construction began in 2011 and to date has taken more than 95 million work hours to complete. More than 10,000 people have worked on the project, which saw more than \$15 billion invested Australia-wide including \$8 billion in Queensland alone.

Production from the first train commenced in September, and work on the second train is continuing to progress well. The second train is expected to be ready for start-up by the end of the year, with its first LNG shipment in the second quarter of 2016. GLNG is a pioneering venture which produces natural gas from Queensland's coal seams and converts it to LNG. It involves gas field development in the Surat and Bowen basins, a 420-kilometre gas transmission pipeline and a two-train LNG plant on Curtis Island, near Gladstone, which will have the capacity to produce 7.8 million tonnes of LNG per year when fully operational.

In January this year QGC delivered its first cargo of LNG out of Gladstone. I believe it is only a matter of weeks—or maybe even days—before the third LNG project, APLNG, joins the ranks of exporters of production to the world market. Gladstone has already seen in excess of four million tonnes of LNG exported in 2015 in over 60 vessels. Within 18 months the Curtis Island plants will be exporting in excess of 20 million tonnes of LNG per year.

I am proud to say that the LNG industry's coming to our city and state was approved and completed under Labor. This is evidence of great things that continue to happen as a result of responsible decisions made by a responsible government. These projects have a combined value of \$60 billion, a maximum of 14,000 construction jobs and approximately 500 to 600 operational jobs with all plants running. Also, royalties from the LNG produced for Queensland will eventually reach nearly \$2 billion per annum—depending on the price of gas, that is. That wealth is shared around every corner of Queensland. There is not a region in our state that has not somehow been rewarded by what is being generated in my electorate of Gladstone.

The original and forward thinking behind the setting up of the Gladstone Economic and Industry Development Board was to facilitate continued attraction of major industry to Gladstone. It was a viable organisation until the Newman government dismantled the board on 30 June 2012. Thankfully, what we have had returned since 31 January this year is a fruitful and meaningful relationship between the

Palaszczuk Labor government, the Gladstone Ports Corporation and the Gladstone Regional Council. We now need to reinstate the development board to ensure our local economy keeps booming through cooperation, growth, expansion and diversification.

The term of little or no support by the former Newman government had massive impacts on my electorate. As I have previously alluded to, the disbanding of the GEIDB was just another poor decision made on a whim by a short-sighted member for Callide, Campbell Newman and the LNP government. They abolished the Gladstone Economic and Industry Board citing government-wide reforms to cut red tape and improve the overall efficiency of the public sector. In actual fact, quite the opposite occurred. That negative action significantly impacted on the Gladstone electorate. Thankfully, the Palaszczuk government acknowledges the huge contribution that organisation made during its time and also acknowledges the benefits that would be gained by the reinstatement of this board.

It is now time for Gladstone to shine again. We have a Premier who listens and ministers who consult with members. This has flowed on to immensely boosting community confidence in Gladstone. Opportunities abound in this government—a government that values Gladstone's contribution to Queensland.