




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Biofutures; Renewable Energy

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.35 am): My government is determined to generate new opportunities and new jobs for Queensland. New industries are at the core of my Advance Queensland agenda. Advance Queensland is how we position ourselves as a state and how we embrace innovation and opportunity. It is how we seek out new markets and chart a new course. From start-ups to boardrooms, factories, farms, garages and the kitchen table, there are opportunities to innovate in every single sector of our economy.

In terms of new industries, the members for Mirani and Mackay and I conducted the second meeting of the government's Biofutures Cabinet Committee last week in Sarina. We have an abundance of feedstocks here in Queensland. This gives us an advantage, as we have an opportunity to be at the forefront of research and development into industrial biotechnology. I was pleased to announce that my government will investigate the establishment of a Biofutures Industry Development Fund. The fund will help stimulate financial investment in the biofuels industry.

As we prepare for this year's budget the committee will be working with the Treasurer to see what funds are available. Structural options for the fund will also be considered. Since releasing a discussion paper in November last year we have consulted with stakeholders on the direction we should take, and we will be putting out a final biofutures road map later this year. The biofutures road map will set out an ambitious vision for the industrial biotechnology sector and contain an action plan which sets out strategies and actions. Government, industry and researchers will work together to achieve this vision.

Another important industry that my government has a strong vision for is renewable energy, and I want to pay tribute to the energy minister for his hard work. Almost \$2.5 billion in renewable energy projects have been proposed across regional Queensland in response to our energy policies. My government has been overwhelmed by the response from the private sector. We are working with the proponents of 17 projects, with generation valued at \$2.4 billion and offering up to 2,300 jobs during construction. These projects are spread across the state from a range of technologies including solar, wind and biomass.

Renewable energy stalled under the LNP, investment dried up and jobs were lost. As a government we have shown leadership and we have opened the door to new investment and employment in regional Queensland by embracing renewables. The government has partnered with the Australian Renewable Energy Agency, ARENA, to secure 60 megawatts of large-scale solar projects, while Ergon Energy has sought expressions for another 150 megawatts. Decisions on the successful short-listed projects are due by the end of this financial year.