



Speech By  
**Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk**


**MEMBER FOR INALA**

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## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Carmichael Mine; Northern Oil Refinery

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (10.01 am): My government is committed to generating jobs and employment opportunities for Queenslanders. That is why we re-established the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program scrapped by the Newman government. That is why we have seized on opportunities for new industries like biofuels and large-scale renewable energy for Queensland. That is why the unemployment rate in Queensland remains so much lower under my government than it was under the LNP.

The recent decision to grant Adani's Carmichael mine coalmining leases is progress for a project which will bring economic growth and jobs for Queenslanders living in North Queensland and Central Queensland. This is a major step forward for this project after extensive government and community scrutiny, with many voices heard and a great deal of evidence considered. A number of other steps must be completed before mine construction can start, and the independent Coordinator-General will continue to work with Adani to progress the project.

The people of North Queensland and Central Queensland have welcomed this latest progress for the potential jobs and economic development it brings closer for their communities. Adani have estimated the mine, rail and port project will generate more than 5,000 jobs at the peak of construction and more than 4,500 jobs at the peak of its mining operations. Importantly, in line with my government's commitment to the sustainable development of the Galilee Basin, stringent conditions will continue to protect the environment, landholder and traditional owner interests and our iconic Great Barrier Reef.

As I have indicated, my government is committed to creating a strong and sustainable biofuels industry in Queensland. Last month my government announced the Northern Oil Refinery's advanced biofuels pilot plant in Gladstone. The \$16 million pilot plant is the first commercial-scale advanced biofuels production facility in Australia. This is an exciting step forward in the development of an advanced biofuels industry for Queensland.

The pilot plant will be co-located at Southern Oil Refining's existing site in Gladstone. To operate a commercial-scale facility the Northern Oil Refinery will need a large volume of raw feedstock and regional Queensland is perfectly placed to provide that. In fact, the Northern Oil Refinery has already identified 12 areas, outside of Brisbane, where it will need to locate primary processing plants to convert raw materials into liquid for transport to the Gladstone refinery. These regions include, to name a few: Rockhampton, Townsville, Mackay, Cairns, Clermont, Bundaberg and Mount Isa.

I am proud to say that through my government's hard work we managed to secure the company's investment in Queensland instead of New South Wales, which was also under active consideration. A fully-fledged advanced biofuels industry has the potential to play a key role in our economic future, and this plant is a giant step towards achieving that goal.

The pilot plant is expected to be operational later this year and within the next three years aims to have produced one million litres of fuel for use in field trials by the US Navy as part of its Great Green Fleet initiative, and also by the Australian Navy. Air New Zealand and Virgin Australia have also announced that they are keen to investigate options for locally produced aviation biofuel. This corporate interest, along with the three per cent biofuel mandate that applies from next January, illustrates how biofuels are going to figure more prominently in the fuel supply chains in the future.

I have no doubt Queensland can become a biofutures world leader. My government will continue to implement policies and progress projects that are pro jobs and promote employment in regional Queensland.