




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Record of Proceedings, 17 August 2016

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

United States Navy, Statement of Cooperation

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (2.32 pm): Since becoming Premier I have focused heavily on the potential for Queensland to create a biofuels and biotechnology industry. Why? Because it could turbocharge regional economies and create thousands of jobs into the future.

I have appointed a biofuels minister in Minister Bailey, and my state development minister, Anthony Lynham, has produced a 10-year industry road map, giving confidence to investors and local producers. We have partnered strongly with QUT and UQ in their efforts to ramp up their research capabilities, and we have poached Southern Oil—one of the country's leading biofuels producers—to come to Queensland. Underpinning all of that have been discussions I have had with the US Navy.

Today is an historic day for Queensland and the Queensland economy. I have long been talking about the need to diversify our economy, to create new industries, to establish new partnerships, to lock in the next wave of long-term, export orientated job opportunities. Today we take a giant stride on the path to those goals.

Today I had the great honour of signing a formal statement of cooperation between the Queensland government and the US Department of the Navy. This morning a delegation from the United States, led by Deputy Under Secretary of the Navy for Management Thomas Hicks, visited the parliament for a formal signing ceremony. It was a great pleasure to host Mr Hicks, who kindly hosted me during meetings at the Pentagon last year. It follows my visit to the Third Fleet Headquarters in San Diego earlier this year.

In all of those previous discussions, I made it clear that I believe Queensland and the US Navy were a natural fit when it comes to the production of alternative, bio based, drop-in fuels. The US Navy, like the Royal Australian Navy, is determined to ramp up its use of alternative fuels. I want Queensland to be the place where those biofuels are produced. We have the research, we have the fuel base, we are perfectly positioned geographically, and we have the will to make this happen.

The US Navy has a goal of having 50 per cent of its total operational energy consumption coming from alternative energy sources by 2020. If Queensland can be a regional hub for biofuel production, it will mean enormous economic benefits up and down our state. That is because drop-in fuels are not just limited to military use but can be used in cars, trucks, even civilian aviation. We know Qantas and Virgin are interested in biofuels, as are most other major international airlines.

The same research used to create drop-in biofuels also produces the molecular building blocks that can be used to produce other products. Almost anything currently made from petroleum, like plastics or even cosmetics, could potentially be made from biofuel molecules. As you can see, the possibilities are immense. I have called the biofuels industry Queensland's next LNG industry, and today's events mean that we are a major step closer to making it a reality.

The formal partnership signed today between Queensland and the US sends a powerful signal to investors that Queensland is the place to be when it comes to biofuels investment. I would like to thank Mr Hicks and everyone who has worked on making this partnership a reality. I am certain it will lead to major, long-term economic benefits for Queensland.