




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Biofutures

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.36 am): We know that if we want to unlock the jobs of tomorrow we cannot just sit back and let it happen. As the Deloitte report has shown, our traditional sectors are regaining their strength, but I want new industries to complement them. The House would be aware that my government is working incredibly hard to create a biofutures industry in this state. We have established a partnership with the US Navy—potentially the biggest biofuels customer in the world and the only partnership of its kind with a state government anywhere in the world—and we have already attracted Southern Oil to develop a refinery in Gladstone. However, there is more work to be done and more opportunities to grasp. That is why tomorrow my government is starting an international call for expressions of interest to develop biorefineries in regional Queensland. We will be aiming at investment from within Australia as well as the US, Asia, Brazil and Canada. Already a request for information process has drawn 26 responses from Australian and international companies. They are interested in Queensland because we have the natural resources, we have geographic advantage, we are a technology leader and we have a government with the will to make it happen.

Last week in the House I reported that Thomas Hicks, Deputy Under Secretary of the US Navy, will be in Brisbane to talk biofuels in December. I can further advise the House today that I will also meet with President Obama's Secretary of the Navy, Ray Mabus, this month to progress our partnership on biofuels even faster. Secretary Mabus, a former governor and ambassador, is the longest serving Secretary of the Navy and has been championing the Great Green Fleet initiative.

My government is determined to attract international investment in biofuels and is determined to work with Secretary Mabus to fast-track our partnership to provide cleaner fuels for the US Navy. The secretary's meetings will be followed up by a visit from US Navy officials including Under Secretary Thomas Hicks, who signed the agreement in June. I am determined to ensure that whoever wins tomorrow's presidential election knows of our commitment to work with partners and customers in the US. In terms of tomorrow's result, I can only repeat what I said back in January: may the best woman win.