



Speech By  
**Glenn Butcher**


**MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE**

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**PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

**Gladstone Electorate, Biofuels Industry**

 **Mr BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (2.39 pm): I rise to speak today about a fantastic win for the state of Queensland and for my electorate of Gladstone. A few weeks ago I joined the Premier, Minister Lynham and Minister Bailey at Southern Oil's refinery in Yarwun to announce that a \$16 million advanced biofuels pilot plant will be built in my electorate. If successful, the pilot plant will be expanded to a large commercial-scale refinery costing \$150 million and producing 200 million litres of advanced biofuels annually, suitable for military, marine and aviation use. The plant will be Australia's first commercial-scale advanced biofuels production facility.

A fully fledged biofuels industry has the potential to play a key role in our economic future. This pilot plant is a giant step towards reaching that goal in Queensland. This pilot plant is essentially the launch site for a Queensland biofuels industry. If we can develop this plant into a large-scale refinery, that will mean jobs in Gladstone, but it could also see new investment and job creation right across Queensland. Not only has the Palaszczuk government secured this investment but also it has taken it out of the hands of New South Wales, which makes this announcement even sweeter.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to supporting the industries of the future. In a testament to this, we will deliver the biofutures road map and a 10-year action plan by midyear. Southern Oil Refining's Managing Director Tim Rose said himself that the decision to put this important piece of technology at their Wagga Wagga plant in New South Wales or at a new refinery in Gladstone was made a whole lot easier with the announcement of the Palaszczuk government's biofutures road map. He stated that the road map 'is the only forward-thinking policy in Australia in this critical area'. The pilot plan is expected to be operational by 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 for use by the Australian Navy.

Southern Oil Refining currently operates a waste lube oil refining plant at Yarwun in the Gladstone State Development Area as a joint venture with JJ Richards & Sons. The \$70 million plant is the only waste lube oil refining facility in Queensland and has the potential to process all of the state's 100 million litres of waste lube oil annually.

The advanced biofuels pilot plant will be co-located with the Yarwun refining facility. The plant will use biomass materials such as sugar cane as feedstock for the production of bio crude oil, which will then be distilled into saleable kerosene and diesel products. Queensland is positioning to be the biofuels industry leader.

The foresight of previous Labor governments brought cutting edge technology and industry to Gladstone with the LNG plants. Here is another example of forward thinking that is at the heart of the Labor government in Queensland.