



Speech By  
**Glenn Butcher**


**MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE**

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Record of Proceedings, 24 May 2016

**MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Gladstone Electorate, Jobs**

 **Mr BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (11.54 am): I rise to speak today about a great announcement for those struggling to find work in my electorate since the ramp-down of the construction of the LNG plants on Curtis Island. Earlier this month, the Treasurer and the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply announced the creation of 350 direct jobs in the region with a \$31 million overhaul of the Callide power station. This investment will bring enormous flow-on economic benefits to Central Queensland and to my electorate of Gladstone. I would expect that the member for Callide would also welcome this announcement.

The Palaszczuk government is delivering for regional Queensland. It is delivering on jobs growth and is investing in this asset and many other profitable government assets, like the Gladstone port. Not only is this government not selling assets; it is investing in growth. State owned electricity generator CS Energy Limited will commence a major service of unit 1 of the Callide B Power Station in July this year. That will create and sustain around 350 direct jobs, which is in addition to the power station's permanent workforce of around 205 employees. The flow-on effect will be service provider jobs, such as caterers and mum-and-dad hotel operators in Biloela. CS Energy has a proud history of supporting local jobs. In February this year, it announced that it would continue its current training program through 2016, with 18 new apprenticeships and traineeships for local men and women at the power station.

I wonder if the Callide B Power Station might have been next on the LNP's hit list for sale—after the sale of the Port of Gladstone, of course. As it is a profitable asset, generating wealth and jobs in the area, it sounds just the kind of thing that the opposition would like to get rid of. Thankfully, under this Palaszczuk Labor government, Central Queenslanders do not have to worry about that. CS Energy is not only generating direct economic gains for the state but also generating jobs and futureproofing regional Queensland.

Our government understands the importance of securing a stable electricity supply. That is why investing in the Callide power station is so important. The Palaszczuk government also understands the importance of transitioning towards renewable, sustainable sources of energy and the importance of investing in jobs for the future and advancing Queensland through innovation. The biofuels pilot plant in my electorate is just one example of this investment. Since this announcement, I have had several inquiries in relation to other state-of-the-art industries that want to set up shop in Gladstone. Why would they not, with a fantastic port, a great state development area and access to services at their doorstep.

**Ms Pease:** And a great local member.

**Mr BUTCHER:** And a great local member. I will take that interjection. The establishment of the new State Infrastructure Fund, with an initial investment of \$500 million, will see over \$40 million invested in my electorate of Gladstone to fast-track the delivery of the Dawson Highway timber bridge

replacement program. This is something that the people of my electorate have been crying out for and, once again, we see that the Palaszczuk Labor government is listening and is delivering for the Gladstone electorate. This \$40 million commitment will see five timber bridges at Catfish Creek, Nine Mile Creek, Sheep Station Creek, Maxwellton Creek and Doubtful Creek replaced with more durable and reliable concrete structures. This project means jobs for people in my electorate.

My electorate is surrounded by big industrial giants and I know better than most the economic advantage that they generate for the state economy. I am pleased to say that this government also acknowledges and appreciates what really is the lifeblood of our communities, and that is our small businesses. With Small Business Week coming to a close, it is fitting to congratulate the responsible minister, the Hon. Leeanne Enoch, on a fantastic Small Business Week. Since the state election last year, 51,000 new jobs have been created. In the 15 months since then, the Palaszczuk government has overseen almost double the number of jobs created in Queensland compared to number of jobs created in the entire three-year term of the LNP. This government has a positive plan for jobs in Queensland and it is delivering on that plan. My focus will remain squarely on seeing this positive economic story continue in regions such as mine.