



Speech By  
**Glenn Butcher**


**MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE**

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Record of Proceedings, 14 June 2016

**MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Gladstone Electorate**

 **Mr BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (11.52 am): Today I rise to speak about the unique opportunities in my electorate. Gladstone is primed to attract large-scale projects and investments with 30,000 hectares of serviced and unencumbered state development land in my electorate, with all of this being linked with corridors straight to the Gladstone port—not just any port but, thanks to this Palaszczuk government, one of only four priority ports in Queensland with a master plan that optimises infrastructure and addresses operational, economic, environmental and social relationships as well as supply chains and surrounding land uses. This government has demonstrated time and time again that we are committed to job creation and to attracting investment and new opportunities, with over 51,000 jobs created since we have taken office.

I also welcome the most recent announcement from the federal opposition leader Bill Shorten to fund stage 2 of the Gladstone Port Access Road in Gladstone. This infrastructure was declared a road of national importance by the Howard government in 2000 with the support of the Labor opposition and the Beattie government to secure an effective and safe heavy truck access road to the port central precinct of Gladstone harbour. In 2012 the minister for transport in the Newman government and current member for Indooroopilly wrote to the federal Labor government seeking to have the funds diverted to another Queensland road project. This request was refused so that this vital infrastructure could be delivered to the Gladstone community. Unfortunately following the election of the Abbott government, the member for Indooroopilly had another chop at resubmitting his request and \$50-odd million was removed from the federal budget and gifted to another Queensland project, leaving the port access road dead in the water. The people of Gladstone can only hope that there is a change in Canberra at the upcoming election and we can get on with delivering the port access road and the future economic benefits and jobs that come with it.

I acknowledge the fantastic investment from the Palaszczuk government in bringing the biofuels industry to Gladstone and many more other prospects of similar investments in my electorate. Since being elected the state member for Gladstone I have had many meetings with investors looking to take advantage of our state land with direct access to port facilities. The Port of Gladstone handles over 30 different products which are exported to 30 different countries and our government is committed to seeing that grow. The most recent announcement of the \$16 million advanced biofuels pilot plant will, if successful, be expanded to a large commercial scale refinery producing 200 million litres of advanced biofuel per annum suitable for military, marine and aviation use. It is clear that the Gladstone port has the potential to provide the gateway for industries of the future. It is not too hard to picture a time when navy fleet vessels are docked at the Port of Gladstone to refuel with our locally produced military grade biofuel, being serviced by local tradespeople and utilising our local amenities.

The Palaszczuk government's Queensland Biofutures 10-Year Roadmap and Action Plan has laid the foundations to position Queensland as an Asia-Pacific hub for biofutures industries, creating the next generation of jobs in our state. I am thrilled that my electorate of Gladstone is poised to play an integral role in this new industry—not only this new industry but the expanse of state development land that will open up opportunities for investment in many fields, including the export of box chilled beef, made all the more viable due to the Palaszczuk government's \$40 million commitment to upgrading the supply route from the west to replace the timber bridges with concrete ones. This government and the Treasurer's budget today delivers investment, jobs and infrastructure projects for the people of Queensland. My electorate has been good to the state of Queensland and it is fantastic to see this government demonstrating its commitment to the people of Gladstone at every opportunity, investing in jobs for our future and welcoming new opportunities. The Palaszczuk government is presenting opportunities for future investment and jobs in Queensland and as the proud state member for Gladstone I am proud to say that we welcome these announcements and we are open for business in Gladstone.