




Speech By
Glenn Butcher

MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Biofuels Industry

 **Mr BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (11.45 am): I rise to speak about Queensland's economic future—a future that seeks out innovation and builds jobs for tomorrow, investing in new industries. The Palaszczuk government has a solid economic plan that brings jobs to the regions. The latest Deloitte Access Economics state outlook is more independent proof of Queensland setting the pace for growth. This report and other hard data show that the LNP campaign of negativity and talking down Queensland has no basis. The lazy approach of Tim Nicholls offers no economic plan—just jobs cuts, front-line service cuts and asset sales, as we have seen. Not even the negativity of the member for Clayfield and the LNP can dampen the great news that construction of the biofuels pilot plan in Yarwun has commenced.

This government has worked hard to secure this industry, launching the biofutures road map and action plan at the BIO International Convention earlier this year. This government has committed almost \$20 million under the biofutures road map. The development of a \$1 billion industrial biotechnology and bioproducts sector is a cornerstone of the Queensland government's Advance Queensland program. For my electorate of Gladstone, biofutures is at the forefront of people's minds. We welcome the news from the Premier that this government has 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.

The people of my electorate of Gladstone also welcome the Premier's announcement that this government is starting an international call for expressions of interest to develop biorefineries in regional Queensland. This is the kind of vision and forward thinking that regional Queensland has been calling out for. Regional Queensland was left in the dark under the Newman-Nicholls years, and in the House this morning all we have seen is more negativity from those opposite. Under the Palaszczuk government the Department of State Development continues to work—

Mr LANGBROEK: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I ask you to rule on a previous ruling about referring to previous governments by the names of whoever was a part of that government.

Ms Jones interjected.

Mr LANGBROEK: A ruling has been made about whether people can refer to the Bligh-Fraser government or the Newman-Nicholls government—or the Palaszczuk-Gordon government. That was the one that came to attention earlier in this parliamentary term.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! I will take advice on that.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I rise to speak to the point of order. I appreciate the concern that the member has raised in the point of order, but in terms of the references made to the Newman-Nicholls government, I do not think there is a question in anyone's mind, especially the member for Clayfield, that he was a very senior member of that government.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! There is no point of order. I will seek advice on a previous Speaker's ruling and get back to the House. I ask the Clerk to confirm that advice.

Mr WATTS: I think I might be able to add. On 19 May it was ruled by Mr Speaker that the Palaszczuk-Gordon government could not be referred to as the Palaszczuk-Gordon government, even though that is how they had the numbers to be able to—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! Member for Toowoomba North, that is a different consideration. I have already said to the House that I will look at whether there is a specific ruling from the Speaker on the matter that has been raised by the member for Surfers Paradise.

Mr BUTCHER: Under the Palaszczuk government, the Department of State Development continues to work with local councils and key stakeholders to explore biofuels options in the Central Queensland region, with Southern Oil's \$16 million advanced biofuels pilot program being the major biofuels project in our area at the present time. Construction has recently commenced on the Gladstone site to develop the \$16 million pilot plant and I look forward to inspecting that this Friday. Subject to a successful trial, the pilot plant will be expanded to a large commercial scale refinery worth \$150 million and will produce over 200 million litres of advanced biofuel 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, and this pilot plant is a giant step towards reaching that goal. This pilot plant is essentially the launch site for a Queensland biofuels industry. The Palaszczuk government is committed to supporting the industries of the future. The pilot plant is expected to be operational early next 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 by the Australian Navy. I look forward to the day when I can see those ships coming into the Gladstone port.

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 industry and plants in the Gladstone harbour, and here is another example of the forward-thinking positivity that is at the heart of our Labor government. This new industry would not be possible without a government that is committed to jobs growth and without the support of the backbone of the Gladstone economy, the Gladstone port. Those opposite have no plan for Queensland's future. In fact, if the member for Clayfield had his way, there would be no biofuels future for Central Queensland ever. There would be no conversation between our government and the United States because the US Navy would not be in a position to rely on the port of Gladstone under private ownership. The LNP has a deliberate and misleading campaign of baseless negativity that simply aims to talk down Queensland in the hope that it can scare voters into accepting asset sales once again. Our port continues to go from strength to strength and pays dividends to our state economy and is an integral part of attracting investment such as this new biofuels industry. The Palaszczuk government is not only delivering for the people of Gladstone but for Queensland, advancing Queensland with jobs for the future.