



Speech By  
**Dr Christian Rowan**


**MEMBER FOR MOGGILL**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Environmental Sustainability

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (5.38 pm): Over the last few months I have seen a number of innovative ideas and technologies being developed and implemented in Queensland with respect to environmental sustainability. I have also been fortunate enough to meet and speak with a number of scientists participating in world-leading research. I have also had the opportunity to visit and see some of the terrific work being undertaken with respect to heritage protection.

Recently I joined the member for Condamine, Pat Weir MP, on a visit to the Oakey beef abattoir. The biogas and wastewater treatment plant at Oakey Beef Exports uses abattoir effluent to create a fuel for hot water production. In traditional aerobic effluent ponds the methane produced by the breakdown of organic matter is released into the atmosphere as a greenhouse gas. However, in this new biogas system a covered anaerobic pond is used to capture the biogas which is then stored in a dual-membrane storage vessel. From here the biogas can be used on an as-needed basis in the abattoir's gas-fired boiler. This biogas system has many benefits. It can be used as a substitute for natural gas, as the boiler can work on a blend of both or independently. It is more environmentally sustainable than traditional fuel sources as it is utilising an ever-present waste stream. A better quality effluent stream is produced which creates a better irrigation source. There is also less of an odour nuisance due to the covered nature of the anaerobic lagoon.

During my visit to the Darling Downs I also visited the Royal Bull's Head Inn at Drayton. It has a long and proud history of being an inn, a family home and a post office. It is now under the auspices of the National Trust. The Royal Historical Society of Queensland also has a rich array of artefacts and documents in relation to Queensland's convict and colonial history, and I appreciated the opportunity to visit the Commissariat Store Museum.

In my electorate of Moggill, the University of Queensland is advancing simple and low-cost algae farming in Pinjarra Hills. The use of such farming processes to further develop industry algae based biofuels to create high-quality livestock fodder and human food supplements for markets in Queensland and across Australia certainly cannot be underestimated with respect to economic growth and industry diversification. I was certainly impressed by the research of Professor Peer Schenk in this area and the potential uses of algae across a range of areas and for a number of emerging markets.

Recently, along with the shadow minister for science, innovation and the digital economy, the member for Mount Ommaney, Tarnya Smith MP, I visited the University of Queensland research station on Heron Island. This facility is well recognised for its excellence with respect to marine and reef research. The station manager, Dr Elizabeth Perkins, and her staff were most generous with their time in outlining the collaborative translational research they undertake with various academic institutions not only in Australia but also around the world. The capacity for scientists to collaborate on a range of research disciplines with respect to marine biology, ecology, geology and other areas certainly enables enhanced and expanded outcomes for the benefit of many communities right across Queensland.