




Speech By
Glenn Butcher

MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

Record of Proceedings, 22 March 2017

MOTION: ENERGY INDUSTRY

 **Mr BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (6.17 pm): I rise to support the amendment that is before the House tonight. I acknowledge the member for Cairns saying that Gladstone is the industrial powerhouse of potentially the world because it possibly could be. There is no stronger supporter of the \$70 billion CSG-LNG industry in this chamber than me. Obviously, with three big fridges right across the harbour in Gladstone, I am a proud member for Gladstone who actually supports this wonderful industry and the employment that it has provided to the people of Gladstone for the last five years, including 15,000 people in the construction of that industry.

We are struggling a little bit in Gladstone now at the downturn of that, but we do know of the benefits across Queensland from this industry. As a local, I have seen firsthand the development of this industry in my own town. I have seen firsthand how families throughout Gladstone and wider Queensland have come to rely on this industry to provide employment, growth and opportunity and how we have all come to benefit from this wonderful industry. The future is good for the coal seam gas industry in Queensland. We are proud as a Labor government to have been the ones who brought this into Queensland, particularly back when the global financial crisis was smashing Queensland and Australia. Bringing on these three facilities in Gladstone was what was absolutely needed at the time.

Queenslanders will increasingly benefit from our growing liquefied natural gas exports from Queensland through increased royalties to fund budget initiatives. This is why the Palaszczuk government continues to support and build this vital industry here in Queensland. It was a massive boon to hear that Shell was investing \$500 million in Queensland to continue to send gas through to the QCLNG in Gladstone in my very harbour. That will deliver jobs that we need in Gladstone so much at the moment. We have the experience and expertise in Gladstone to send them out to develop that. The government is also developing skills for Queenslanders and funding services that we need here in Queensland.

The coal seam gas industry in the last financial year contributed an estimated \$247 million to a wide array of community infrastructure and services. These included hospitals, community centres, airport upgrades and schools. In my electorate of Gladstone, we have seen the announcement of a \$40 million upgrade to the A&E and upgrades to our schools, including \$4 million to Rosella Park School, \$6.5 million to Calliope State School and \$60 million to the future Calliope state high school. The coal seam gas industry has also contributed approximately \$260 million to road infrastructure in regional Queensland, and we know that many of those opposite have been asking for that for many years to try to make sure that infrastructure funding goes into regional Queensland.

Even though the LNG construction is well and truly behind us in Gladstone, the industry still directly employs over 5,000 people in the Surat, in Gladstone, in Toowoomba and right here in Brisbane. From its first export of LNG in December 2014, the LNG industry has gone from strength to strength. Export volumes have maintained strong momentum with 2016 export volumes totalling 17.5 million tonnes. This export industry directly contributes \$12.8 billion to the Queensland economy, spending \$5.3 billion in the last financial year with over 3,000 local businesses in the area. We expect that this

industry is here for the long term. We know this industry will be growing our liquefied natural gas exports and will increasingly deliver important royalties to fund budget initiatives. Major destinations for recent cargos in 2017 have been Japan, China and Korea to name a few. Based on import data from December, 40 per cent of China's imports, 28 per cent of Japan's imports and 14 per cent of Korea's imports came from Australian LNG products.

The minister also advises me that the skills of the welders who built the LNG trains in my patch are of a standard to allow them to work on the new submarines in South Australia. While it may be disappointing we cannot use those skills here in Queensland, particularly in Gladstone, it is a contribution from this industry to the wider Australian community. This government understands that gas helps fuel our homes, our businesses and our industries, and Queenslanders need this gas. That is why I am proud to be part of a government that is actively supporting measures to increase the supply of gas into Queensland.

The announcement earlier by the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines of a pilot exploration project in the Surat Basin has been widely applauded, and so it should be. It is an innovative and considered approach from a government committed to the real issues that Queensland homes and businesses face every day. While other jurisdictions squabble about how to increase domestic supply, the Palaszczuk government is getting on with the job.

(Time expired)