




Speech By
Julianne Gilbert

MEMBER FOR MACKAY

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT

Australasian Bioenergy and Bioproducts Symposium

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (2.51 pm): The member for Gregory was a bit harsh in his comments about our acting agriculture minister. We on this side of the House have men who can multitask. It is not a big deal for the men on this side to pick up an extra ministry.

The Australasian Bioenergy and Bioproducts Symposium 2017 was held in Brisbane on 20 October 2017. Three regional centres were chosen for regional satellite forums. With the substantial focus that the Palaszczuk government and industry are placing on biofutures in Queensland, the Bioenergy and Bioproducts Symposium and regional forums provided an excellent platform to ensure that the opportunities of the bioeconomy are leveraged to deliver their maximum potential across the state.

Mackay hosted a satellite forum. It is regions such as Mackay in which raw resources and feedstock are found, and these are the products needed for our new biofutures industries. World leaders in the research developing the new products for our biofuture industries and CEOs of international companies presented in Mackay. Mario Pensini from Life Science Queensland said—

In Queensland, businesses and research organisations have developed specialist skills and expertise to leverage the opportunities of bioenergy and bioproducts that the tropics offer. Companies, investors, researchers and policymakers must work together to realise the full potential of the tropical bioeconomy.

The panellist had a sober message for the future of our potential new industries. That message was that we need a stable, progressive government with policies that support renewables and biofutures. New industry development was stifled in Queensland by the last state government when it cut incentives for biofuels under the then treasurer, the member for Clayfield, Tim Nicholls. When there is a short-sighted government making backward-looking policies, banks will not support new ventures into biofutures.

We have opportunities to produce green aviation fuel, biodiesel for the US Navy fleet. Bagasse produced in Mackay has potential to be included in the front end of these processes. Bio Processing Australia is going through its final stages of feasibility plans to set up production in Mackay instead of going overseas to Singapore. They are enticed to the region of Mackay because of the abundant feedstock.

(Time expired)