




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Mercurius Biorefining

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.46 am): I recently had the pleasure of visiting QUT's Centre for Tropical Crops and Biocommodities, where I had the opportunity to inspect the progress of the latest scientific testing of patented technology produced by US biorefining company Mercurius Biorefining. This cutting-edge biotechnology, called ReACH, aims to convert agricultural waste into renewable diesel and jet fuel. This technology is designed to significantly reduce the cost of manufacturing renewable diesel and jet fuel and other bioproducts.

I am proud to say that, with support from our government, Mercurius has chosen Queensland, and in particular regional Queensland, to create the company's global biomanufacturing hub. Initially, Mercurius plans to build a pilot plant to test different elements of the biomanufacturing process across Gladstone and Mackay, with the potential to build a larger demonstration plant at Gladstone. Over the longer term, based on performance of the pilot and demonstration projects, the company has indicated that it will consider seeking out further Queensland regional locations to build up to five commercial scale biorefineries.

The combined biorefinery pilot and demonstration plants are expected to attract an initial investment of \$11 million and around 50 jobs. This is great news for Queensland's sugarcane regions in terms of potential high-value job creation and investment opportunities, as well as further strengthening Queensland's growing reputation globally as an ideal location to build biorefineries. This project is just another step towards achieving Queensland's vision for a \$1 billion sustainable, export oriented biotechnology and bioproducts sector.

The Palaszczuk government attracted Mercurius here through my department's Biofutures Acceleration Program expression of interest, through which we are funding Mercurius to undertake a scientific validation program and feasibility study around its ReACH technology. Our state has the potential to embrace a future in which agricultural waste from Queensland's sugarcane regions could be manufactured into biofuel right in those regions. Mercurius is just the latest in a lengthening list of international and interstate companies which have chosen to invest in Queensland. Their decision is a vote of confidence in our economy and a clear signal that Queensland continues to be the nation's frontier of opportunity.