



Speech By  
**Glenn Butcher**


**MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE**

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**PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

**Alumina 2018**

 **Mr BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (2.58 pm): Today I rise to speak about Alumina 2018, known also as the 11th Alumina Quality Workshop international conference, which was recently held in my electorate of Gladstone. Alumina 2018 is an international symposium that has been held triennially in the Gladstone electorate for the past 30 years. It began in 1988 as a small forum to bring alumina producers and their customers together to exchange ideas and information on production quality, but over time the symposium has grown and flourished until in recent years it has become the international forum in which to hear about the latest developments in alumina production. It now offers a unique opportunity to network on a global scale with Australian and international alumina producers, Australian and international academics and industry based researchers and local and worldwide transportation and logistics experts.

As the 2016 Census figures demonstrate, of the roughly 61 per cent of all constituents of working age living in my electorate, nine per cent were directly employed in alumina production and smelting. This figure is made up of trades and administrative staff employed by the alumina industry in Gladstone who would, when added together, constitute approximately a further 10 per cent or so of all persons employed in Gladstone. That is over 20 per cent plus of all persons of working age in Gladstone who are involved in some way or another with the international alumina or aluminium industry in Queensland. Employment and the individual and family prosperity that employment brings is why I attended Alumina 2018 and why I am so pleased to be able to see this event in my electorate. Before becoming a member of this House, I was a worker in this same industry for 21 years.

For those attending the conference, it was not all about the industry. Alongside all the papers and discussion, the lucky delegates experienced the very best that Queensland has to offer, which is, of course, the beautiful Gladstone region. They dined on mud crab and Queensland beef in our finest restaurants. They were taken to the Quoin Island Turtle Rehabilitation Centre where they could spend time with the local tame kangaroos whilst attending a poolside cocktail function. They were treated to the private beaches and tranquillity of north Facing Island, which is one of the many glorious islands in Gladstone Harbour that are within easy reach by boat charter from our world-class marina.

Alumina 2018 functioned as a brilliant showcase of the best that my electorate and the Palaszczuk government has to offer a global audience. I am very pleased to say that, in September, given the myriad of potential offered to it, the world came to the wonderful electorate of Gladstone and was reluctant to leave.