




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Biofuels Industry

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.43 am): At the last election only Labor had a plan to grow new Queensland industries. It is a plan the Palaszczuk Labor government is delivering as we build the foundations for a renewable fuel industry to create more jobs for regional Queensland.

As the Premier has announced this morning, later today I will join with her and the member for Gladstone to launch in our state an Australian-first trial using 100 per cent renewable diesel. Southern Oil's advanced biofuels pilot plant at Yarwun, near Gladstone, is pioneering the refining of renewable diesel made from agriculture and forestry waste, biosolids, waste plastic and old vehicle tyres. Today's trial is the first step towards proving a renewable fuels industry is technically and commercially feasible and could be cost competitive with fossil fuels. It is all thanks to a grant from the Queensland government's Advance Queensland Industry Attraction Fund, which brought Southern Oil's \$25 million biofuels plant to our state in 2017. This grant has only been made because Labor was elected.

Only the Palaszczuk government is committed to delivering a \$1 billion sustainable and export oriented biotechnology and bioproducts sector by 2026. Over the next 12 to 18 months Southern Oil will trial the fuel in a Scania test engine to show it performs identically to petroleum based diesel. Endorsement by original equipment manufacturers like Scania is crucial to creating commercial demand for renewable diesel. As a result of the trial, renewable fuels company SynBio, a wholly owned subsidiary of Southern Oil, will immediately relocate from New South Wales to Queensland. SynBio anticipates this will create at least 11 direct and 25 indirect jobs within six months.

Today's demonstration will show there is a huge opportunity to produce 100 per cent renewable diesel fuel in Queensland and reduce industry's reliance on fossil fuels. Australia, as the Premier has noted this morning, imports 96 per cent of its fuel, so creating a homegrown renewable fuels industry would underpin domestic fuel security and provide economic, social and environmental benefits to our state's regions.

Queensland is now leading the country when it comes to the bioeconomy and renewable fuels. The Palaszczuk Labor government will continue working hard to build new industries and create more jobs for the benefit of all Queenslanders.