




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Watson Snr, Mr S; Biotechnology

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (10.20 am): Can I begin by associating myself with the comments of the Deputy Premier, as I know many members of this House wish to do, and express our collective condolence to Mr Sam Watson's family and the broader Indigenous and Queensland communities.

The Queensland bioeconomy means more jobs in more industries. That is why the Palaszczuk government is working hard to create a \$1 billion biofutures industry that boasts world-class innovation in bioenergy, biotechnology and bioproducts. The bioeconomy holds the promise of creating jobs by converting waste and unused products like bagasse and beef tallow into the fuels, chemicals and energy that our growing economy needs.

Our successes in biofutures were celebrated during Australia's first Bio Innovation Week, which was held in Queensland from 11 November to 15 November. As part of Bio Innovation Week, national and global bioinnovators, investors, businesses and researchers visited our state to participate in events focused on bioindustries. The week's activities included regional roadshows in Toowoomba, Gladstone and on the Sunshine Coast; a research summit; a topical agricultural conference; and a policy summit.

A key event was Australia's premier national bioenergy conference, BioEnergy STRONG, which was held at the State Library of Queensland. I was pleased to meet BioEnergy STRONG conference delegates and to announce the first recipients of grants from the Queensland government's \$5 million Waste to Biofutures Fund. Six new bioprojects, collectively valued at \$22 million, will soon be delivered in Queensland following a \$1.9 million investment from the state's Waste to Biofutures Fund. These projects will help convert waste streams into bioenergy that will power industry, charge electric vehicles and create useful products such as organo-mineral fertilisers.

These projects exemplify the innovation that is making Queensland a world leader in renewable fuels but, most importantly, they mean more jobs in more industries—85 new jobs from this initial investment alone. I look forward to providing further updates to the House on Queensland's bioinnovation projects and this government's plans to develop a more sustainable, low-carbon economy.