




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

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MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Gladstone State Development Area

 **Mr BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (2.51 pm): I rise today to speak about the incredible opportunity that exists in my electorate and one that only Labor has a plan to capitalise on. Gladstone is an industrial powerhouse with industry on all of our borders. We have long-established businesses in Gladstone like Queensland Alumina, which recently celebrated its 50th anniversary, and we have new projects like Acciona's Aldoga renewable energy project, which when complete will be one of the largest solar farms in the Southern Hemisphere.

What makes Gladstone so attractive to industrial investment is simply two things: access to state land with proximity to power sources and a deepwater port, and a government with a clear agenda to deliver jobs and growth. The Gladstone State Development Area, declared in 1993, is dedicated for industrial development and materials transportation infrastructure. Comprising almost 30,000 hectares of land adjacent to the port of Gladstone—the largest multicommodity port in Queensland—the Gladstone State Development Area has connections to major rail and road networks and power sources.

All you have to do is look to the projects of national and international significance already operating with the state development area to understand the importance of having this valuable land available. Locating projects within the state development area provides many benefits to businesses and industry, including access to our highly skilled workforce in the Gladstone region, greater planning and development certainty for project proponents, and fast-tracking economic development through efficient processing of applications and requests.

It was only five years after receiving project approval from the Coordinator-General that Australia Pacific LNG celebrated the first shipment of liquefied natural gas from its facility in Gladstone. I had the pleasure of having lunch with the ex-manager the other day. She was telling me that they are now producing record levels of LNG from that facility. Labor backed and built the LNG pipeline—now a \$60 billion industry providing ongoing employment. We have seen the investment in biofuels from Southern Oil, with the establishment of their pilot plant in the industrial area—which has moved on to testing with the Scania engine, as we announced last sitting week, which is now running on 100 per cent renewable fuel.

The Palaszczuk government has a plan for biofuels. We set out a roadmap and invested in giving business the confidence to start operations not only in Queensland but also in my electorate of Gladstone. Southern Oil's Managing Director, Tim Rose, has said many times that the decision to put the new refinery in Gladstone was made easier with the announcement of the Palaszczuk government's biofutures road map, stating that it was 'the only forward-thinking policy in Australia in this critical area'. Our government's clear commitment to developing energy sources of the future is sending the message that we are open for business, and that message certainly is being heard loud and clear.

The world is looking to hydrogen. Yet again, Queensland is leading the way, with Gladstone at the helm. The Palaszczuk government released the Advancing Queensland's hydrogen industry discussion paper for community and industry comment, and the responses received will inform the development of a hydrogen industry strategy for Queensland. Our government allocated funds in our 2018-19 budget to the investigation of producing and supplying hydrogen at a competitive price as an alternative energy source, and we have already seen industries emerging in Gladstone in this area.

Northern Oil is planning to produce biohydrogen. There are partnerships with CSIRO and the Queensland University of Technology. There is Mercurius, ReACH technology and Sumitomo. These companies and patented technologies are at the forefront of the developing hydrogen industry and they are doing it in the Gladstone region.

Building on the work of the Palaszczuk government, a Shorten Labor government will make Gladstone the hydrogen capital of Australia. A Shorten Labor government will deliver a \$1 billion national hydrogen plan to create new jobs, support new businesses and supercharge Australia's renewable energy industry. Once again, Gladstone will be at the forefront, with a \$3 million hydrogen hub that, as announced, will be set up to trial these technologies.

Only Labor is taking a hands-on approach to supporting the new jobs and industries Queensland needs for the future, unlike those opposite and their federal colleagues who are stuck in a loop of infighting and confusion with 12 different energy policies—and they still do not have a plan. The Palaszczuk government is leading the way. We have a vision for securing jobs of the future but, more importantly, we have a plan—a plan that is backed by industry and a plan that supports jobs in the Gladstone area.

(Time expired)