




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Gladstone Electorate; Resources Industry, Jobs

 **Mr BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (2.11 pm): I rise today to speak about something I am very passionate about: regional jobs in industry and the resources sector. Recently a supply chain expo was held in my electorate. It demonstrated the important role the resources sector plays in Queensland, especially central and regional Queensland. This expo was full of local suppliers who directly benefit from a thriving resources sector including local motels, car dealerships and engineering firms, to name just a few. In the last financial year a Queensland Resource Council report showed that total economic contribution to the Gladstone economy from the resource sector was 14,355 full-time employees and \$2.7 billion in gross regional product. Our government is completely focused on creating new jobs and growing new industries to make Queensland's economy fit for the future. We are a government committed to putting investment into industries of the future because that is where the jobs of the future are.

The LNG industry in Queensland is one example of this commitment. The first blueprint for Queensland's LNG industry was released on 17 September 2009 by a Queensland Labor government. It outlined the Queensland government's commitment to work with industry and local communities to ensure that the LNG industry was developed and progressed for the benefit of all Queenslanders. Labor backed and build the LNG pipeline. It is now a \$60 billion industry that provides thousands of ongoing jobs not only in the three LNG facilities in my electorate of Gladstone but in the many regional upstream areas to the west. We are seeing the same commitment and vision right now.

Our government has set out a 10-year biofutures road map and action plan. We have invested in giving businesses the confidence to start operations right here in Queensland. Now Queensland is leading the nation when it comes to the development of the bioenergy industry. We have seen an investment in biofuels from Southern Oil and the establishment of a pilot plant which has moved on to testing with the new Scania engine delivered the other week. Southern Oil's managing director, Tim Rose, has said many times that the decision to put the new refinery in Gladstone was made easier because of the Palaszczuk government's biofutures road map. He stated that it was 'the only forward-thinking policy in Australia in this critical area'.

Now the world is looking to hydrogen and yet again Queensland—and in fact Gladstone—is leading the way. 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. Hydrogen has long been touted as a revolutionary new fuel source that could slash global carbon pollution and create a multibillion export industry for Australia, replacing the polluting fossil fuels used in vehicles, homes and industry. Labor has put a stake in the ground, saying that Gladstone will be the hub for hydrogen in the future. Gladstone will be where we make hydrogen; Gladstone will be where we export hydrogen; and Gladstone will be where we provide jobs for this industry.

I welcomed Bill Shorten's recent hydrogen announcement, which will deliver critical infrastructure like the hydrogen innovation hub. It will be based in the Gladstone electorate and ensure that, in partnership with industry, we research technology to get the commercialisation right and that, when hydrogen gets off the ground, it gets to off the ground in Gladstone in a big way. The Palaszczuk government understands that in Central Queensland jobs are vital. It is important that we diversify our economy and make sure we are powering the future.

Queensland is the largest global exporter of metallurgical coal and one of the world's largest producers of bauxite, zinc, lead and LNG because our government invests in and supports the resources sector in Queensland. The Gladstone Ports Corporation is at the centre of our resource sector locally and is supported by a workforce of over 700 people. The Gladstone port is Queensland's largest multicommodity trading port. Gladstone port has contributed \$869 million in dividends and taxes over the five years to June 2018 and invested millions in enhancing community spaces. This is an asset that those opposite wanted to sell.

Only Labor governments back the resources sector, only Labor governments back the jobs of the future, and only Labor backs working-class families in the Gladstone electorate.