




Speech By
Glenn Butcher

MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

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MOTION

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (5.39 pm): I am glad the previous speaker talked about Rugby League, because he has a shadow spokesman who could not even count to six when he gave a penalty count against the Cowboys, which lost them the game. He had seven or six. He could not remember what it was.

This government is getting on with the job of delivering jobs in regional Queensland. As we have heard tonight, since the Palaszczuk government came to office in January 2015 we have created over 192,000 jobs in Queensland. That includes 26,000 more full-time jobs in construction and 7,600 full-time jobs in the mining industry. Over the past 12 months, we have created 8,300 jobs in regional Queensland. In my electorate of Gladstone, thanks to previous forward-looking Labor governments, we have seen the LNG jobs boom. The LNG industry is now a \$60 billion industry that supports thousands of jobs. Our LNG exports out of Gladstone Harbour are continuing to grow.

A couple of weeks ago—on my birthday—I hosted the Deputy Premier and Treasurer of Queensland in my electorate. I showed her around the Curtis Island facility. Certainly, it was a pleasure to show the Treasurer the economic boom that the LNG industry is providing to the state of Queensland. Let us not forget that it was not that long ago that the LNG industry did not exist. Now, we need to plan for those jobs of the future, just like we are doing with the jobs of the future in the biofuels industry.

The grant that we provided Northern Oil to establish a biofuels plant in Queensland has been a resounding success, with Northern Oil now converting more than 300,000 litres of waste biofuels every day. That is why Labor has provided yet another grant to Northern Oil for the biohydrogen generation unit at the same facility—because we know, as a Labor government, that future energy generation and the jobs that go with it will be coming from hydrogen. It is predicted that, in Queensland, there will be 16,000 jobs by 2040 in this brand-new industry. Japan alone is looking to power 40,000 electric vehicles with hydrogen fuel cells. I want to make sure that that hydrogen in those vehicles is coming from Central Queensland and Gladstone. Only Bill Shorten and Zac Beers, the Labor candidate for the Flynn electorate, will invest over \$1 billion in Australia's hydrogen industry, including an innovation hub in the Gladstone region—a \$3 million investment in regional Queensland that will see this next new industry boom come in my region.

The Palaszczuk government is also delivering job-creating infrastructure projects in the regions, with a \$1.44 billion investment in infrastructure for Central Queensland in last year's budget, supporting over 3½ thousand jobs in Central Queensland. That investment includes \$352 million for Rookwood Weir; a \$42 million upgrade of the Gladstone Base Hospital, which Minister Dick announced a few years ago; and a \$65 million high school for the Calliope area, which was taken out of my electorate and given to the member for Callide to help him along the way. In addition to this huge investment in education, we have also invested over \$25 million in new infrastructure in schools in the Gladstone region. The

Palaszczuk government has also invested \$50 million in Works for Queensland funding to councils throughout Central Queensland. The mayors of these councils continue to sing the praises of Works for Queensland, which is in stark contrast to the LNP's failed Royalties for Regions scheme.

I ask: what has the LNP done to stimulate regional growth and Queensland's economy? I recognise one thing it did: it is that glistening white elephant, the Northern Australian Infrastructure Facility—the NAIF: \$5 billion over four years under three prime ministers to deliver one facility granting zero dollars for Queensland projects. In Queensland, the state LNP members have no plan for our state or our economy. When it comes to economic management, we only have to look at their record to know that they are failures. As we have heard tonight, when they were in government they sacked 14,000 people. Their only new infrastructure project is the big white elephant sitting across the road. It is great they built it straight out the front of Parliament House and it is great that it has a nice big sharp edge because, as those ex-ministers walk out of here they can look at it and it is like a knife in their guts. They can see it and it is killing them that they have not had a chance to get into the place.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Gladstone, I think that language is unparliamentary. I ask you to withdraw.

Mr BUTCHER: I withdraw. It is galling to have the member for Everton come into this House and complain about wage growth. We have had zero inflation. For three years under the federal government, Queensland has had the slowest rate of growth. Household consumption is down and wage growth has stagnated. While Labor is preparing for the future, the LNP has zero vision for policies, zero credibility and, when it comes to Scott Morrison, zero time left.