



Speech By  
**Glenn Butcher**


**MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE**

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**MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Hydrogen Industry**

 **Mr BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (2.10 pm): I rise today to speak of the next big thing for Gladstone and that is hydrogen. I recently attended the Queensland hydrogen forum right here in Brisbane hosted by the Premier, Minister Dick and Minister Lynham. The topic of that forum was fuelling a future for hydrogen in Queensland.

The race is on to find a new source of clean energy in Queensland that can create jobs, drive industry growth and maintain Queensland as a world-leading energy supplier; and renewable hydrogen is that solution. This event was a great opportunity to hear from new renewable hydrogen experts in the field and learn just how we can benefit from this exciting new industry. I was buoyed and also excited to hear from the keynote speaker, Dr Alan Finkel, who spoke passionately about the opportunities that Queensland has in this brand-new industry.

Hydrogen provides the opportunity to export Queensland's sunshine to the world and support more jobs in regional Queensland, particularly in my electorate of Gladstone. The Palaszczuk government's record of attracting investment in renewables combined with our existing gas pipeline of infrastructure and export facilities make us the ideal state to lead the future production and export of hydrogen. We backed the \$60 billion LNG industry in Gladstone and in Western Queensland, providing thousands of jobs for our regions. Now the world is looking to hydrogen and we want them to get it from Queensland. Even more so, we want them to get it from Gladstone because of the jobs it will create for our people. This emerging industry will have economic benefits here in Australia, worth an estimated \$1.7 billion in exports annually by the year 2030. Now is the time for Queensland—and for Gladstone—to position itself as a significant hydrogen trading partner with our international neighbours.

Earlier this year we celebrated our state's first delivery of green hydrogen to Japan, exported by the Japanese petroleum conglomerate JXTG. I acknowledge the member for Redlands, who was at the forum with me the other day, too. She was responsible for helping that hydrogen to come from her electorate. It was produced at the Queensland University of Technology's solar cell facility at the government's Redlands research facility. Queensland's and Australia's growing populations and economies also require increasing supplies of reliable, affordable and preferably renewable power. Manufacturing sectors that use hydrogen in their processes will also benefit from a reliable domestic supply here in Queensland.

One of the Palaszczuk government's priorities is to create jobs in a strong economy, and supporting the development of this new industry strongly aligns with that. The \$19 million strategy that has been committed to will give Queensland and Gladstone the best start possible to succeed and become a hydrogen exporter of choice to the world. I want Gladstone to be at the forefront of renewable hydrogen production, supplying an established domestic market and export partners with a safe, sustainable, reliable supply of hydrogen. In doing so, we will be creating thousands of jobs in the future

while propelling and diversifying our economy, which remains a key focus of the Palaszczuk government. That is why we are committing to growing Queensland's hydrogen industry as it holds significant potential for our state: for its employment, for its investment and for our overseas exports.

The development of a domestic hydrogen industry, including the production of competitively priced renewable energy, will have widespread economic benefits. Hydrogen is a versatile energy carrier with a diverse range of applications, including energy supply, transport and industrial applications like biorefineries that we will see in Gladstone. Gladstone, one of Queensland's industrial powerhouses, will be the focus point for hydrogen development for good reason. Existing industries, gas infrastructure, access to a deepwater port and skilled local workers make it an attractive location for this emerging industry.

For too long the workers of Gladstone have had to go away to find construction jobs. It is time they came back home to Gladstone, and the future hydrogen industry will do just that. Gladstone has already had a strategically placed state development area that, through the powers of the Coordinator-General, gives our government the ability to facilitate these large-scale developments. Only the Palaszczuk government will create this new industry and only Labor will create the jobs that we need in regional Queensland.