




Speech By
Julianne Gilbert

MEMBER FOR MACKAY

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Mackay Electorate

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (2.45 pm): Mackay is proud to host the first clinical trial in a regional centre anywhere in Australia. The wider Mackay region is no stranger to being a forerunner in research and best practice. We are the home of the QUT research laboratory at Racecourse Mill, which is a laboratory that engages in cutting-edge research into biofuels to diversify the cane industry and set up building blocks for possible new industries. Mackay is also a service centre for the coalmining industry to the west. We have one of the most innovative engineering sectors for the coal industry in Australia at our very own Paget. Paget could be called the patent capital of Australia for the coalmining industry, so it makes sense that Mackay is the home of the Resources Centre of Excellence. The centre of excellence was an election commitment. It is in the process of being designed, with construction planned for the end of the year. Hopefully it will be completed on time. The centre will not only train miners but it will also be a centre for research, best practice and innovation for the MET sector.

Labor is delivering for regional Queensland. The Coral Sea Clinical Research Institute in Mackay was recently launched by the Minister for Innovation, Kate Jones. It will trial vaccines to treat the debilitating condition coeliac disease, which affects one in 70 Australians. The institute is headed by Mackay practitioner Dr James Davidson, a specialist in coeliac disease and the institute's principal investigator. Dr Davidson is an expert with clinical practices in Brisbane and Mackay. With his worldwide connections, he has brought the trial to Mackay. The trial is being conducted from his rooms at the Mackay Mater Hospital. It is the first trial of Nexvax2 with the US pharmaceutical research company ImmusanT. If the trial is successful, the vaccine will provide relief not only for Australians but patients worldwide who suffer from the disease. It will also provide relief from the strict lifelong gluten-free diet, which at present is the only effective treatment for the disease, although it is not foolproof. The trial is so popular that coeliac sufferers travelled from as far away as the Burdekin just for the launch. The Palaszczuk government invested \$300,000 in seed funding through Advance Queensland, which has helped establish the facility. The Coral Sea Clinical Research Institute will capitalise on the expertise of Queensland medical researchers and scientists—

(Time expired)