




Speech By
Hon. Glenn Butcher

MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

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MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST

East Shores Stage 1B

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing) (2.31 pm): I rise today to talk about the opening of the fantastic job-generating East Shores 1B parklands in my electorate of Gladstone. The Palaszczuk government invested more than \$25.9 million in this development, supporting jobs for regional Queensland—in fact, 300 jobs. That is 300 local jobs. On this side of the House, as we know, we are focused on creating jobs for Queenslanders.

East Shores stage 1B really has to be seen to be believed. I refer to the spectacular and expansive harbour views, the open green spaces, the outdoor boot camp equipment, the new cruise ship terminal, amphitheatre and outdoor screen and so much more on this beautiful parkland. Projects like this not only create jobs and contribute to the local economy but also build capacity across the construction industry, giving small businesses in Gladstone the chance to participate in work they might not otherwise get.

With this project, the Gladstone Ports Corporation has not only created an entertainment and tourism hub for Gladstone but also provided a much needed injection for the region's economy and the businesses there. One of the centre points of the development is the addition of a restaurant and craft brewery right on the harbour. You can take in the best of Gladstone while enjoying a beer that has been brewed on site at Auckland House. Each beer—and, Mr Deputy Speaker Kelly, I am sure you will appreciate this—is named after local sites in the region and has been paired with an item on the menu to enhance that experience. I dined at Auckland House last weekend with my family, and the food, the service and the atmosphere there was outstanding.

Auckland House has also employed a further 60 people including chefs, wait staff, kitchen hands and of course our craft brewer Alex, who I met recently. The craft brewing industry in Queensland is worth \$62 million to the Queensland economy, employing more than 1,700 Queenslanders. By 2024, it is anticipated that the industry's contribution to the state's economy will be well over \$100 million.

As the minister responsible for craft brewing in Queensland, I am excited to see another craft brewery open in our state but especially in my own electorate of Gladstone. I am focused on helping more craft brewers establish themselves in Queensland—particularly in regional Queensland—to grow their businesses and to employ more Queenslanders.

The incredible development at East Shores is only possible because our government kept our income-generating assets in Queenslanders' hands. We stopped the Gladstone port from being sold and then we invested to create this spectacular community place.

I have mentioned this before and I will mention it once again seeing as this is our last sitting week: when the LNP were last in power they had an LNP candidate in Michael Duggan, who worked for the Gladstone port and was part of their 'asset transaction team'. He was sent there particularly to set up the Gladstone port ready for sale or for a 99-year lease. The people of Gladstone know the history of the LNP and government owned corporations in Queensland.

They know what they do. They did not accept it last time, and they will not accept it from them this time either. Instead of new swings and basketball hoops for the kids and barbecues for families, that waterfront land would be fenced off—the property of international owners. We know that for a fact. The LNP only know how to cut, sack and sell. As we head into the election, they have to make it clear whether they intend once again to sell off the Gladstone port to pay for the \$23 billion of election commitments they have. They need to let the people of Gladstone know whether the port and East Shores are at risk.

The government owned Gladstone Ports Corporation is a massive employer in Gladstone, but it is also one of the best examples of industry giving back to the community. In Gladstone we have seen just how popular East Shores 1A has been with families and visitors, and I am certain stage 1B will put East Shores on the map as a premier destination for locals and tourists in Central Queensland. The Gladstone Ports Corporation, Hutchinson Builders, Light Group and all of the subcontractors involved in this project should be congratulated on a fantastic project for the Gladstone region.