



Speech By  
**Hon. Glenn Butcher**


**MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE**

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Record of Proceedings, 9 September 2020

**MOTION**

**Energy Generation**

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing) (5.26 pm): I rise to oppose the motion tonight and to acknowledge the vital role that the Gladstone Power Station plays in Queensland, supporting hundreds of jobs for local workers in my community. Any further investment in a new coal-fired power station in Collinsville will put the jobs of all of those workers at the Gladstone Power Station at risk. I have stood on the grass at the Gladstone Power Station with those workers who turn up every day to maintain and operate the plant. I can tell you right now the thing that I do not want to see is the federal government telling lies to the people of Queensland about the value—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member, you will need to withdraw that unparliamentary language.

**Mr BUTCHER:** I withdraw. The last thing I want to see is the federal government building new power stations that we know do not stack up, that are not needed and will cost the jobs of those workers I stood with in front of that power station last year. I will fight every day of the week for those workers.

The Palaszczuk government also has a strong record in supporting and advancing our vital resources sector. On this side of the House we understand that job-creating resource projects support economic growth in this state, particularly in regional Queensland. That is why since coming to office our government has supported more than \$20 billion worth of investment in resource projects, generating more than 7,000 jobs in centres like Mackay and in the regional mining towns of Moranbah, Middlesbrough, Clermont and Dysart—all in the Bowen Basin.

**Mr Boyce:** How did you go at the federal election?

**Mr BUTCHER:** I will not take that interjection from the member for Callide because he has some weird ideas for this state and I do not want any part of any of it.

Regional cities like Gladstone, Rockhampton, Townsville and Mount Isa would be unrecognisable without the jobs created by a strong resource sector in Queensland. Last month I declared Stanmore Coal's Isaac Downs project a prescribed project, allowing the Coordinator-General, Ms Toni Power—the female Toni Power—to work with Stanmore to secure project approvals in a timely manner. The construction phase of the project is set to create 250 jobs, with a further 300 jobs expected when the mine becomes operational.

We are also supporting the development of new mines through the Coordinator-General who is helping to progress these projects: the \$1 billion Winchester South mine, with 500 construction jobs and 450 ongoing operational jobs; the \$1 billion Pembroke Resources Olive Downs project, with 500 construction jobs and 1,000 ongoing operational jobs; and the \$1.5 billion Valeria project, with 1,400 construction jobs and 950 ongoing operational jobs. Every time the LNP federally stand up and every time the crazies from Callide start to talk, we can say that we are the ones who are delivering projects in the coal industry here in Queensland. The Palaszczuk government is also supporting the \$1.5 billion

Australian Mines Sconi project for North Queensland through our Jobs and Regional Growth Fund. The new mine near Greenvale will extract cobalt, nickel and scandium oxide and create 500 construction jobs and almost 300 jobs during operation.

Although Labor understands how critical the resource sector is to Queensland's economy, not everyone in this chamber has the same view—and we can hear loud and clear who they are. I am not talking about the member for Maiwar—well, not just yet. I am talking about the member for Nanango. The Leader of the Opposition is no friend of the resource sector. She once described having a coalmine in her own electorate as 'ludicrous'. However, she will stand up in Townsville or Mackay and claim she supports regional Queenslanders working in the resources sector. It seems to be a pattern of behaviour for the member to say one thing in one place and then do the opposite somewhere else. She claims support for the resource sector in regional Queensland but then what does she do in Brisbane? That is right. She does a preference deal with the Greens—the same party that wants to ban coalmining and increase royalties by 2.5 per cent and eight times the current rate. You do not need an economics degree to realise this would cripple the industry and lead to job losses right throughout regional Queensland. The LNP's partnership with the Greens would tear the heart out of the resources industry here in Queensland. It is time for the Leader of the Opposition and the LNP in Queensland parliament to stand up for regional Queenslanders working in the resources sector and tell them the truth.