




Speech By
Hon. Glenn Butcher

MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

Record of Proceedings, 25 March 2021

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Gladstone Electorate, Hydrogen Industry

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (2.21 pm): Gladstone is set to be home to a highway of hydrogen jobs as the Palaszczuk government continues to deliver our regional economic recovery plan. Queensland's hydrogen credentials hit another milestone last week in my electorate when Sumitomo Corporation formalised a memorandum of understanding with the Gladstone Ports Corporation, Gladstone Regional Council, Central Queensland University and the Australian Gas Infrastructure Group to develop Australia's first hydrogen ecosystem—right on my doorstep in Gladstone, up in the mighty Central Queensland region. By 2030, Queensland will need a fully integrated, export scale hydrogen supply chain if we are able to meet the demand from countries like Japan.

The signing of this MOU represents a huge vote of confidence in the Gladstone port and the resources workers of the Central Queensland region. This will mean more jobs now in exploration, jobs during construction, jobs during export operations and jobs right through the manufacturing supply chain. It will prove those supply chains and grow a domestic hydrogen market, with the ultimate prize of more Queensland exports from and more long-term secure manufacturing jobs in the Gladstone region. While this MOU sets Gladstone up to be the hydrogen capital of Queensland, I want to see us become the hydrogen capital of Australia, and a major global player in this renewable energy market.

Gladstone not only has an outstanding record in the development of energy exports from a standing start but also building this world-leading energy sector is critical to sustaining jobs in our resources sector and growing Queensland manufacturing. Just imagine locally built passenger ferries traversing the Gladstone Harbour, fuelled by entirely emissions-free, renewable hydrogen made locally in Gladstone. By the end of the decade, we can be exporting millions of tonnes of renewable hydrogen stamped with 'Made in regional Queensland by regional Queenslanders'.

I acknowledge my cabinet colleague Minister Mick de Brenni for his industry leadership and advocacy of the Gladstone region. He is heading up a specialist hydrogen team of industry experts to unleash regional Queensland's hydrogen potential and the thousands of jobs that will certainly flow from it. With his support, and the backing of the Palaszczuk government's plan for regional economic recovery, Central Queensland and the Gladstone region will be at the forefront of the global renewable hydrogen industry.