




Speech By
Hon. Glenn Butcher

MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Hydrogen Industry

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (10.03 am): Thanks to the strong leadership of the Premier and our Chief Health Officer, Queensland is open for business. Because we followed the health advice that kept Queenslanders safe, we are now in a position to deliver Queensland's plan for economic recovery from the global COVID-19 pandemic. We are doing this by supporting existing industries to grow and certainly to modernise, supporting thousands of existing jobs in Queensland. We are also developing industries to create even more long-term secure jobs such as those in the emerging green hydrogen industry. Queensland's green hydrogen future is moving at a cracking pace thanks to the Palaszczuk Labor government. Our investment in and support of the emerging green hydrogen industry is already paying dividends.

As we have heard, on Sunday I was pleased to welcome the Premier, the Deputy Premier, the Treasurer and the Minister for Energy to my home town of Gladstone for a massive and significant investment announcement by Fortescue Future Industries. Andrew Forrest announced that FFI would invest \$114 million to build one of the world's largest hydrogen equipment manufacturing facilities in Gladstone, which is expected to support more than 300 jobs over the life of the project. That is just another example that shows investors are confident about the settings that we have in place to grow industries here in Queensland.

This is not just great news for the workers of Central Queensland; it is a huge opportunity for the Queensland manufacturers we already have. We are now entering a golden era of opportunity for Queensland manufacturers to be the backbone of this new green hydrogen industry in Queensland. As the Minister for Manufacturing, I want Queensland manufacturers at the forefront of the supply chains, engineering and manufacturing the critical components that we need to build infrastructure and certainly to then export product to the rest of the world.

As we continue to move forward to our renewable energy targets, I want Queensland manufacturers to make the solar panels, I want them to make the wind turbines and I want them to make the electrolyzers. I want Queensland manufacturers putting clean renewable energy into homes and businesses right across Queensland, around Australia and around the rest of the world. That is why I will continue to focus on supporting Queensland manufacturers to move into advanced manufacturing, grow their businesses, improve their competitiveness and create good secure jobs for Queenslanders. At the end of the day, there is nothing better than something being made in Queensland.