




Speech By
Hon. Glenn Butcher

MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

Record of Proceedings, 12 October 2021

MOTION

Climate Change

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (11.56 am): I rise to speak in support of the motion. Queensland is cementing its place as Australia's green hydrogen powerhouse thanks to the Palaszczuk government. Queensland's Labor government is planning and investing under the leadership of the Premier and has positioned our state as a major international player in the green hydrogen market. This investment is all part of our plan to develop more industries in renewable energy as we move towards our target of zero net emissions by 2050.

At the heart of this emerging industry is Gladstone, which is fast becoming Australia's hydrogen capital. As mentioned earlier today, recent announcements by Fortescue Future Industries and Stanwell with Iwatani highlight the confidence that investors have in our state and in the Gladstone region. Investors have this confidence because the Palaszczuk government's strong COVID-19 health response has kept Queensland out of long lockdowns and allowed our economic recovery to continue. This new energy source is one of those industries looking to get into Queensland.

Our government also has a pipeline of investment in regional water infrastructure that will provide important water security for the industry into the future. This includes the construction of Rookwood Weir, the Fitzroy-Gladstone pipeline and our investigations to raise Burdekin Falls Dam in the Townsville region.

The Palaszczuk government is also supporting the manufacturing industry to modernise, upskill and grow their businesses to become important parts of the green hydrogen supply chain. On top of that, there is a \$2 million investment by the education minister for Gladstone State High School to ensure that our students of tomorrow have an understanding of the importance of skills for the hydrogen industry coming forward. There will also be the ability for apprentices and traditional owners to gain work in these new industries in the Gladstone region. When you put this all together, you get more jobs in more industries.

I think it is a great outcome, but not everyone in here agrees. Take the member for Callide, for instance. Has he welcomed the investment in green hydrogen today and over the weekend in Central Queensland and the jobs that it will bring? No, he has not. Instead, he has been sniping away from the sidelines, like he always does, and peddling his climate change denying rhetoric in this House and outside. I really feel sorry for the people of Callide, because their member has deserted them. He has now based himself in Gladstone, where he heads to new announcements from the state government and stands in the media pack like a lost little lamb, trying to get some credibility through his support for a new industry in Gladstone. In fact, the member for Callide has previously paid for Facebook ads that say, 'The fantasy of renewables is holding us back.' Thankfully, neither FFI nor Iwatani listened to the supposed member for Callide.