




Speech By
Hon. Glenn Butcher

MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

Record of Proceedings, 26 October 2021

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Net Zero Emissions

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (2.20 pm): The Palaszczuk government has long been committed to achieving net zero emissions by 2050. Under the strong and decisive leadership of the Premier, we have a position in Queensland to meet those targets and we have made that quite clear. Just as importantly, Queensland is in the prime position to grasp those opportunities to deliver clean, reliable renewable energy to the rest of the world. We are doing this through significant investment in renewables above the ground and exploration for critical minerals below the ground, as Queensland becomes the global clean energy superpower that we know we are.

For example, the International Energy Agency expects global demand for vanadium, a mineral Queensland has large deposits of, to rise between 139,000 and 219,000 tonnes by 2024. At the same time, overall mineral demand for battery storage, of which vanadium is a key component, is expected to rise ninefold over the next two decades. If global emission targets shift to net zero, that demand jumps by a factor of 40. While that represents new opportunities for the resources sector, it also is a huge opportunity for Queensland manufacturers to become part of the global export market.

I have already said that, as we continue to move towards our renewable energy targets, I want Queensland manufacturers making the solar panels, the batteries, the wind turbines and the electrolysers. I want Queensland manufacturers putting clean renewable energy into homes and businesses right across Queensland, around Australia and around the world. When you break it down to the basics, what it means is more jobs for Queenslanders, particularly more jobs for regional Queenslanders, not only now but into the future.

On this side of the House, we recognise those opportunities and we are supporting Queenslanders to make the most of them. It is a shame that the LNP do not have the same vision for Queensland's future. I was disappointed—but I certainly was not surprised—this morning to read that the member for Callide is willing to forgo a massive opportunity for Queensland by campaigning against a move towards net zero emissions by 2050. That is right—the world renowned scientific expert and economic guru, the member for Callide, wants to ignore global evidence pointing to environmental and economic benefits of moving to net zero emissions in the future.

If he does not support net zero emissions, then is he willing to forgo the thousands of jobs in the emerging green hydrogen industry—many of them in the electorate that he wants to represent in the federal government? If he does not support net zero emissions, that means throwing away the thousands of jobs in the resources sector that are providing the critical minerals needed to store clean energy. If he does not support net zero, that means denying Queensland manufacturers—particularly in Gladstone, one of the areas he is going to support—the opportunity to expand in those global markets across the world and help our local businesses to grow and create more jobs for Queenslanders.

He must know something that the rest of the world does not. I am pretty sure it is not new insights into global economics and it is not a new scientific understanding of the environmental impacts of climate change. All that means is that he knows that there is a fractured federal LNP that have no intention of delivering their commitment to net zero emissions by 2050. He knows that the federal LNP are big on announcements and missing in action when it comes to delivering on their commitments to the people of Australia. If that is not the case, then he is standing in front of Central Queenslanders and lying to them about what he can deliver for them in Canberra.

Either way, it is a bleak future for the people of Central Queensland under a divided federal LNP government—a government that are more concerned about securing jobs for themselves through shonky deals than they are about jobs for Queenslanders, particularly regional Queenslanders. They are a government that were willing to give up tens of thousands of jobs across the state for an ideological battle they are fighting based on flawed science, dodgy economics and mistruths.

The people of Central Queensland see right through the member for Callide's fake bravado. They know that only a Labor Party in Queensland will continue to deliver for the workers of Queensland. The last thing that I want to see is the member for Callide saddle up next to Senator Canavan rubbing fake coal on his face and going out and telling the people of Central Queensland that he actually cares for them.