




Speech By
Hon. Glenn Butcher

MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Regional Queensland, Infrastructure

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (2.21 pm): The year 2021 has been a fantastic year to be the Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water. I have been unashamedly focused on regional development. I have travelled the length and breadth of this wonderful state from Goondiwindi right up to the cape. I absolutely love engaging with regional communities. Throughout my travels this year I have spent time with local councils, industry reps, manufacturers, farmers and community leaders.

The message is clear—our investment in the regions is supporting jobs and helping grow regional economies. Our manufacturing grants programs are supporting more than 6,800 jobs and generating more than \$110 million in private sector investment. We also have a proud record when it comes to water, investing over \$2 billion in water infrastructure and planning for Queensland's water needs, delivering 2,300 jobs.

Recently I was onsite with the member for Rockhampton at Rookwood Weir, which has nearly 200 workers on the job of which nearly 130 are local Central Queensland workers. The Palaszczuk government champions regional Queensland, and we will certainly continue to do so. What regional Queensland needs is more champions in Canberra instead of the anti-vaxxer LNP rabble we have to put up with right now.

We need real leadership. The new year will bring an opportunity to toss out this rotten federal LNP government and bring real representation back to regional Queensland. Enough about that. Now is a special time of year for the members opposite; in fact, it is a very sentimental time of year. Christmas is a time for sharing, a time to reflect on the year past and the year ahead. With that in mind, I have written a poem I would like to share with everyone here this afternoon—

T'was the sitting before Christmas, when all through the House
Not an MP was stirring, not even Jon Krause
Neil Laurie has tabled petitions with care
In hopes that adjournment soon would be there
The LNP were nestled all snug in their beds while visions of Campbell Newman danced in their heads
The Speaker resolved, in his chair, not to snap, and let's not forget to give Hansard a clap
Then out on the green there arose such a clatter, I sprang from my desk to see what was the matter
Imagine my shock when who greeted me there was the member for Callide just blowing more hot air
Hearing him waffle, I couldn't help but groan
He's got no idea, he's got no plan, he hasn't even got a backbone

And then, just to make it sound even more strange, he's on 7.30, denying climate change
With little regard for workers and jobs, it's just no surprise he's a hydrogen snob
Opposed to net zero, without reason or rhyme, the only fantasy here is is it worth the voters' time?
An optimistic fellow, giving Flynn a red hot go, he won a preselection that could have gone to Nanango
More rapid than eagles, his loony pals they came, and he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name:
George Christensen, Matt Canavan, Malcolm Roberts, Clive Palmer, Pauline Hanson and Campbell Newman
All these birds of a feather!
As a state MP I've been mediocre at best!
Send me to Canberra where I can be worse than the rest
What a stark contrast to our state government team
His anti-vax mandate, with ideas too extreme
The election next year is the chance for a fresh start
Flynn needs Matt Burnett, a leader with heart
One last thing before I say 'goodbye', Merry Christmas to all and to all a good afternoon.