




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles
MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Rio Tinto, Renewable Energy

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning) (9.48 am): Last week I was pleased to attend the opening of Rio Tinto's new Brisbane office at the Midtown Centre on Charlotte Street along with the Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen. Two buildings there have been combined and refurbished to create one stunning workplace. Some 11,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions were saved through the use of recycled materials for the build.

It is fitting that this Australian first innovation be situated in Queensland because, like the architects of this building, the Palaszczuk government is delivering sustainability opportunities into the future for our state. We are working with leading global companies like Rio Tinto to create Queensland jobs, protect jobs in the future economy and achieve our goal of net zero emissions by 2050 because we know that pursuing those targets will create huge opportunities with more jobs in more industries right along the renewable energy supply chain.

Hydrogen is key to Queensland's future. Queensland is on its way to becoming a world leader in this new technology, with Gladstone becoming a hydrogen and renewable energy hub right in the middle of our Central Queensland Renewable Energy Zone. Rio Tinto has already announced a feasibility study into using clean hydrogen to replace natural gas in its alumina refining process at Yarwun and last week the energy minister and I helped witness an important new development: Rio Tinto signed a letter of intent to partner with Sumitomo Corporation, focusing on Yarwun as the location for a Gladstone hydrogen plant. This partnership presents an amazing opportunity for Queensland as it provides the potential for large-scale hydrogen production. That would mean making renewable hydrogen here, ensuring Queenslanders get the first benefits from it and then exporting it to the world, creating new income streams.

In Gladstone we have already seen our own Stanwell Corporation and Japan's largest hydrogen supplier, Iwatani Corporation, form a consortium to progress plans for a large-scale renewable hydrogen export facility. This is only the beginning of a wave of international collaborations that will lead to new industries and new jobs underpinned by our supply of renewable energy. The Palaszczuk government is pleased to support partnerships like this. We are determined to work with Queensland employers like Rio Tinto to capture the economic opportunity and highly skilled jobs that will come from the development of hydrogen here in Queensland.