




Speech By  
**Hon. Dr Steven Miles**  
**MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA**

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Record of Proceedings, 21 June 2022

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Exports

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure) (9.45 am): The No. 1 economic priority of the Palaszczuk government is creating jobs for Queenslanders. Our current unemployment rate is proof that our plan is working. Unemployment in Queensland is just four per cent. That is the lowest it has been since 2008. The unemployment rate is so low because we are exporting so much more. Queensland exports hit a record \$99 billion. Our No. 1 trading partner, Japan, is driving this boom.

Last week I represented Queensland in Japan to find even more opportunities to create jobs for Queenslanders. Japan and Queensland have a proud history, with the state exporting more goods, services and energy there than to any other country in the world. We appreciate the long-term relationship which in many ways has been a major contributor to Queensland's being the economic powerhouse of the country. I can report that Japanese businesses are eager to do even more business with Queensland, especially importing green hydrogen. Executives from Stanwell Corporation joined me to promote hydrogen investment opportunities, particularly in Central Queensland.

Four years ago the Premier went to Japan and met with businesses and academics to talk about the potential to export Queensland's sunshine as hydrogen. Since then, we have released a hydrogen strategy and appointed a hydrogen minister. Last year we launched the Renewable Energy and Hydrogen Jobs Fund, a \$2 billion commitment to secure the opportunities and jobs that are coming from clean energy. The state government is sending a very clear message, especially to our partners in Japan, that Queensland is the ideal international supplier for reliable, affordable and clean energy.

Global markets are increasingly hungry for green hydrogen to help meet their decarbonisation ambitions. Every credible expert is saying that renewable energy is the biggest opportunity since the industrial revolution. Queensland, with our abundance of sunshine, wind and potential for pumped hydro energy storage, is in prime position to sate an increasingly hungry world hydrogen market. I thank the Japanese government and businesses that took the time to meet with us. I look forward to the opportunities to create even more new jobs together.