



Speech By  
**Hon. Glenn Butcher**


**MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE**

---

Record of Proceedings, 12 October 2023

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Gladstone Engineering Alliance Major Industry, Energy and Manufacturing Conference**

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (2.45 pm): I rise to speak about a fantastic event that was held recently in my electorate: the Gladstone Engineering Alliance Major Industry, Energy and Manufacturing Conference. For the past 20 years in Gladstone, GEA has been representing, supporting and certainly promoting the capabilities and interests of not only their members but also the manufacturing sector in the Gladstone region. There is no doubt that Central Queensland is a world recognised industry supply chain hub and, in no small part, that is thanks to the efforts of GEA. We know that when we back local content, we grow our economy and provide good secure jobs for locals.

The conference was a great opportunity to hear about the many projects happening in the Gladstone region. It really is a very exciting time. Some of the projects include: the \$114 million Fortescue Future Industries' Green Energy Manufacturing Centre; Alpha HPA's \$300 million high-purity alumina plant; and, thanks to an investment from the Queensland Critical Minerals and Battery Technology Fund—and I acknowledge the resources minister in the House—Alpha HPA will now be able to grow sapphire glass in Gladstone. The Central Queensland Hydrogen Project is a jointly funded venture between the Albanese and Palaszczuk Labor governments to deliver a record \$117 million investment to fund further developments and there is the \$983 million Fitzroy to Gladstone Pipeline.

Exciting expansion plans for the Gladstone port include becoming a regional container hub and the development of the Northern Trade Precinct, which has identified the area adjacent to the Gladstone State Development Area as an ideal location for the emerging renewable energy trades. All of this is only possible because the Palaszczuk Labor government backs investment in renewables, has a clear plan for energy and jobs and has kept our assets in public hands.

Let us not forget that in a state election campaign those opposite ran against me a candidate who was not only hammering in 'for sale' signs at Gladstone port's Auckland Point Wharf but also working on the inside as a plant for the LNP to get the Port of Gladstone ready for sale. There is no limit to how low the mob across the chamber will go when it comes to selling our assets. Under the LNP, who knows what would have happened to the Port of Gladstone. Luckily, at that election the people of Gladstone saw right through the LNP and their plans. Since that time, the Palaszczuk Labor government has invested millions of dollars in that income-generating asset, the Gladstone port, including the expansion of the amazing award-winning East Shores Precinct and the current redevelopment of Auckland Hill. This investment continues to flow back to the great people of Gladstone, my city.