



Speech By  
**Julianne Gilbert**


**MEMBER FOR MACKAY**

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**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Mackay State Development Area**

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (2.46 pm): There is great news for Mackay. Community consultation has opened for the proposed new sites for the Mackay State Development Area for industrial development. We are amid a hive of industrial activity and we are in urgent need of land to develop our new industries. The Mackay region has land, water and feedstock from sugar cane so it is an attractive area for multinational companies to put a stake in the ground and build new infrastructure for bio future food products. Mackay's industrial area will potentially become a world-leading future foods hub that would provide anchor infrastructure for future growth of commercial scale bioproduct industries.

Some \$45 million was earmarked in this year's budget for the development of the SDA for both Mackay and Gladstone. The Coordinator-General has identified two potential sites for industrial hubs—one at Racecourse near the sugar mill and the other at Rosella where there is some salt encroachment on existing agricultural land. Together these sites will deliver about 1,019 hectares.

These two sites will be a much needed boost to industrial land and will deliver huge economic benefits, creating good local jobs and new export and investment opportunities to grow new industries making sustainable food, fibre, feed and fuel products. Products produced at the future foods hub are being researched at the QUT research centre based at Racecourse Mill. I believe one of our parliamentary committees went to visit that research centre. This research centre is there with the support of the Palaszczuk government.

Members may have heard me speak about green aviation fuel and green biodiesel development using sugarcane waste being undertaken by Mercurius. Queensland could be fuelling its jets through cane waste in the near future and also fuelling our large equipment on mine sites. Cauldron is developing bio high-value foods from sugar. The carbon in sugar can be fermented at high heat and turned into proteins, making milk powder and egg whites.

Imagine the possibility of turning sugar into sustainable food, increasing our food security for our part of the world. We have the potential to export powdered milk and powdered egg whites to our northern neighbours. The most exciting part of this venture is that it can add to all of the sugar-producing communities in Queensland. If you are not already a parliamentary friend of the sugar industry, now is the right time to sign up and to get on board.