




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Regional Queensland, State Development Areas

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure) (9.38 am): Regional Queensland is the engine room when it comes to industry in this state, and it is the Palaszczuk government that is clearing the path for more businesses to call the Sunshine State home. Gladstone is fast becoming a super hub for renewable energy and green hydrogen. Townsville and the north-west have enormous potential for critical mineral production, processing and manufacturing. These are just some examples of regions that are growing thanks to their state development areas.

These SDAs are home for traditional and new industries, new opportunities and new jobs. They create a space where industries can grow, develop and work together to create new value chains. Today I am pleased to announce that investigations have begun into the possible declaration of a state development area for Mackay—news that I know the member for Mackay will be happy to hear because she is a champion for good jobs and better services in her region.

A government member: Another great member!

Dr MILES: Hear, hear! A Queensland government project team led by the Coordinator-General has been formed and consultation will soon begin with local stakeholders. It is proposed that a Mackay SDA could be home to the region's growing local biofutures industries—industries that are looking at new ways to make the food, fuel, feed and fibre products the world needs. Currently Queensland has 12 state development areas in locations including Gladstone and Townsville as well as Cairns, Bundaberg and Abbot Point. Pending the outcome of investigations and stakeholder and public consultation, it is possible Mackay could soon be home to Queensland's newest SDA.