




Speech By
Hon. Glenn Butcher

MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

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ADJOURNMENT

Gladstone, Easter

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (7.10 pm): I rise tonight to tell the House why Gladstone is the best place in Queensland to be over Easter. Do not just take my word for it, Mr Deputy Speaker. Thousands of visitors will travel to Gladstone at this time of year to enjoy the fresh seafood, the famous Brisbane to Gladstone Yacht Race as well as the fantastic line-up of community events over the weekend. This free family event starts on Thursday, 28 March and runs right through Easter weekend, drawing crowds of more than 50,000 locals and visitors. Rides, stage entertainment, sideshow alley, market stalls and delicious food are on offer. It is the perfect way to kick off your Easter festivities. There is no better way to get into the festive spirit than the annual Easter Saturday Race Day. Punters will flock to Ferguson Park to watch six local races and Fashions on the Field.

Easter weekend in Gladstone also marks the arrival of the Brisbane to Gladstone Yacht Race and its competitors. Now in its 76th year, the Brisbane to Gladstone Yacht Race is Queensland's oldest race and one of the most celebrated yacht events in the Queensland calendar. This year, the fleet of 37 yachts will sail from Redcliffe in Brisbane to the finish line in the Gladstone harbour. I acknowledge former minister Stirling Hinchliffe, who will send off the boats for the festivities in the future.

One of the highlights of the weekend is the three-day B2G Village festival. It certainly celebrates all there is about the Gladstone region, particularly the celebration we have over Easter. The village festival offers the Yachtsman's Long Lunch on the Friday, followed by the seafood festival the next day before we welcome the yachties all the way from Brisbane in the line-crossing party, celebrating everything there is about the Brisbane to Gladstone Yacht Race.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge and say a big thank you to Mayor Matt Burnett and not only his old councillors but also his new councillors for their commitment to and support of this festival and the Brisbane to Gladstone Yacht Race. I also thank them for their support of the Gladstone Harbour Festival, which is one of the last free festivals in Queensland. People can take their family and watch entertainment over the long weekend.

Easter in my electorate certainly is a special time. I encourage everyone, particularly members in this House, to come along and experience what Gladstone has to offer during this period. Gladstone is certainly the place to be at Easter. If members want to come for a visit, I am more than happy to show them around and maybe take them to the races, give them a tip and buy them a beer.