



Speech By
Hon. Glenn Butcher

MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Miles Labor Government, Gladstone

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (2.21 pm): As I have said today already, what is happening in Gladstone really sums up what we are about as a government here in Queensland. We are creating the jobs, we are delivering the infrastructure and we are welcoming new industries with open arms in Queensland. There is no magic wand. We just roll up our sleeves, we stick to our plan and we work in partnership with all industries to stimulate jobs and investment here in Queensland. While those opposite are getting bogged down with their same tired old lines around nuclear energy, we are just getting on with it with our \$62 billion Energy and Jobs Plan here in Queensland.

I am proud to be the member for Gladstone at a time when we are seeing major investment come to our city. We have our clean energy projects, our \$89 billion Big Build, projects like the Fitzroy to Gladstone pipeline, major school infrastructure upgrades and community spaces like the Auckland Hill redevelopment. It is all happening in Gladstone.

This is about sustainable growth and the infrastructure to go along with it at the same time. Our government will do the hard yards for our community. We have established new social homes with the purchase of 34 new units in the Gladstone CBD and we are also establishing six modular homes in the region. We heard the story today from the minister about that lovely mother and her daughter moving into one of those homes. This is all part of the Miles government's record investment in social and affordable housing and our record Big Build.

I want to make sure that everyone has a roof over their head and a place to call home as Gladstone continues to grow during the big announcements that we are making. This government has a plan when it comes to more home ownership, more social housing and better rights for renters here in Queensland. I look forward to working with our newly elected and re-elected councillors to open up opportunities for new private sector investment in the Gladstone region so we can get more homes on the ground for those people coming to our fantastic city.

As we heard this morning, last week we saw the opening of Australia's first commercial hydrogen electrolyser facility. Fortescue's presence in Gladstone is expected to generate 240 jobs during construction and 93 when the electrolyser is operating in situ. We also saw ACCIONA commence construction of its Aldoga Solar Farm in Gladstone. This important project promises over \$150 million in local content and up to 350 jobs during construction. One of the most exciting things about that project is the \$120,000 a year they will give back to our community to make sure they are part of the social fabric of the Gladstone region when they are building these large-scale infrastructure projects.

There is a really positive feeling in and around the Gladstone region at the moment. There is a commitment to realising our city's potential and working together to get it done. I have always said that Gladstone is the industrial powerhouse of this state, and last week's announcements certainly demonstrate that we are on track in Gladstone to stay that way with the job-generating industries of the future.

This is all at risk under an LNP government. As I said this morning, I was down in Maryborough last week. Under the watch of the last LNP member for Maryborough, the government stopped building the trains there. Who can forget the federal LNP that dared let the car industry leave Australia? Guess what? They did; they left! I have said this before. The last LNP candidate who ran against me wanted to sell the state owned Port of Gladstone. The LNP do not believe in Aussie jobs, they do not believe in Queensland jobs and they do not believe in Gladstone jobs.

We are a party that believes in good secure jobs. We believe that making things in Queensland makes sense. We are rolling out the welcome mat to the likes of Fortescue in Gladstone, just like we are making trains in Maryborough and the Boxer military vehicles in Ipswich. Those opposite are happy to wear the hi-vis and pose for the photos, but their only record when it comes to manufacturing is slashing government programs and seeing jobs leave Queensland. I notice them all walking around with their little book that they hold. If you read their pretty little blue book—and the shadow minister for manufacturing should read it again—there is not one mention of the word 'manufacturing'. I look forward to seeing Gladstone continue to be the engine room of our state economy. I will always back our industries to make sure they succeed not only in Queensland and not only in Australia but also on the global stage.