



Speech By
Hon. Glenn Butcher

MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

Record of Proceedings, 16 April 2024

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Regional Queensland, Job Creation

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (9.54 am): The Miles Labor government is absolutely delivering good jobs, quality training and opportunities for regional Queenslanders. A good government is one that invests in job-creating industries. It is no surprise that energy and manufacturing go hand-in-hand in Queensland.

Being on a path to a low-carbon future is opening opportunities for our local manufacturers because we know that the demand for net zero supply chains continues to grow in this state. The Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan is securing our energy transition and creating generations worth of jobs in the sector through a pipeline of projects right across the state. Look no further than Gladstone and Central Queensland. I am always proud to be the manufacturing minister, but last week was particularly great with two major announcements, as we have heard this morning, benefiting Queenslanders in these job-creating industries.

I have said that Central Queensland is the powerhouse for energy generation for this great state and we will be the powerhouse well and truly into the future. I was excited to have the entire cabinet join me in Gladstone last week to officially open Australia's first commercial hydrogen electrolyser manufacturing facility. I saw for myself the 'Made in Australia' stamp on one of those fantastic electrolysers in Gladstone. This state-of-the-art project is the first stage of Fortescue's green energy manufacturing centre. Thanks to the support of a Labor government in Queensland, soon we will be able to produce more than 2,000 tonnes of green hydrogen each and every year in this state, creating over 240 jobs during construction and more than 300 indirect jobs for local regional Central Queenslanders.

We also turned the sod on the ½ billion dollar solar farm at Aldoga. This project will not only power us towards our 70 per cent energy renewable targets but also deliver hundreds more jobs for Central Queensland now and into the future as well. Unlike those opposite, we are getting on with the job. We are getting on with creating jobs of the future today, but this is all at risk because of the LNP. They want to cut our tiered coal royalties and our Big Build in Queensland. The LNP will take Queensland backwards, cutting jobs and costing jobs in energy and manufacturing, particularly in regional Queensland. They have done it before and they will do it again.

Ms Simpson interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Maroochydore, I will decide whether or not this is a ministerial statement. I think we have already covered off ministerial statements this morning.

Mr BUTCHER: The Miles government will continue to invest in jobs and growth in our great state because, if we can make it here in Queensland, we absolutely should.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Nanango is warned under the standing orders.

Mr BUTCHER: The industry is continuing to grow and this government will continue to support our manufacturers and our workers in these industries.