




Speech By
Hon. Glenn Butcher

MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Central Queensland

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (9.43 am): Central Queensland is also crucial to our Big Build in Queensland. Our \$89 billion Big Build is not just creating construction jobs; it is helping unlock the jobs of the future. Our 117-kilometre Fitzroy-to-Gladstone pipeline is shoring up water security, helping to unlock future green energy projects plus ensuring the viability of current industries in the Gladstone region.

In Rockhampton, the 14-kilometre ring road will reduce travel time, improve flood resilience and help keep freight moving around this great state. There are so many jobs on the horizon in Central Queensland moving forward on the back of the Fortescue electrolyser facility, the Acciona solar farm and the Alpha HPA project—just to name a few. This is good for Gladstone, good for Queensland and good for Australia.

We are delivering the Big Build here in Queensland. We are also doing the hard yards with our councils to make sure they have the right core infrastructure for our growing communities, particularly in regional Queensland, and realising the potential of these major green energy projects. Through round 6 of our Building our Regions program, we are helping improve council water supply and sewerage systems in those regions. There is nearly \$70 million for 99 projects across 50 councils through round 6 of this fantastic program. That is nearly \$70 million that councils in Queensland do not need to fork out for themselves, meaning we are helping councils to put downward pressure on their rates and water charges and tackle the cost-of-living crunch.

In Mackay, there is more than \$6 million in funding to deliver crucial projects such as the Bloomsbury water supply project and Shellgrit Creek drainage upgrades. In Rockhampton, there is \$2 million to help Rockhampton Regional Council with its North Rockhampton Sewage Treatment Plant stage 2 project, supporting 80 jobs. In Bundaberg, there is \$2 million for Bargara's trunk sewer main to service that growing community, as we and the member for Bundaberg certainly know. That is millions of dollars that these councils do not have to pass onto their ratepayers and it is creating jobs along the way.

The Miles Labor government will always roll up our sleeves and help our local Queensland councils to unlock more jobs and to help ensure infrastructure meets the needs of our growing regional communities. We know that those opposite do not like spending and do not like helping our councils. They do not believe in working together; they only believe in cutting. I look forward to seeing all our Building our Regions round 6 projects up and running, serving these growing Queensland communities.

While I am on my feet, I congratulate all the new mayors and councillors, most of whom are here today and tonight. I say thank you to our mayors and councillors in Queensland. The Miles government is here to work with you and is here to continue to deliver for you in this great state. I look forward to meeting up with many of you this afternoon and over the next couple of days here in parliament to ensure you know that we have your back and are on your side.