




Speech By
Hon. Glenn Butcher

MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

Record of Proceedings, 18 April 2024

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Alpha HPA

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (10.08 am): The Miles Labor government is delivering a renewable future in Queensland by Queenslanders. It is about our publicly owned energy generators meeting our renewable energy targets. It is about unlocking future industries. It is about jobs in Queensland—more jobs in energy, more jobs in manufacturing and more jobs in regional Queensland.

Yesterday, we saw more proof of our commitment to jobs and future industries in this state. I was joined in Aldoga by the Prime Minister and Premier at Alpha HPA's critical minerals project. The Australian government has committed \$400 million to deliver Australia's first high-purity alumina processing facility in Gladstone. Alpha HPA will be manufacturing critical minerals for LED lighting, semiconductors and lithium ion batteries right here in Queensland. The world is moving towards a decarbonised future. There are opportunities here for Queensland, and we are grabbing those opportunities with open arms. We are backing our energy sector, we are backing our manufacturers and we are backing the jobs that flow off the back of these announcements. As part of yesterday's announcement, we are going to see 490 local jobs during construction and more than 200 when they are up and operating this fantastic facility.

We have backed this project from the start—investing more than \$21 million in funding to get stage 2 off the ground and \$30 million to make sapphire glass for LEDs and watches in the Gladstone area. That is the glass used for smartphone screens—thanks to this investment by the Miles Labor government. Our government has created renewable energy zones across the state, with Gladstone and Central Queensland right in the thick of our plan for more jobs in renewables. Through the investment from the Miles government, we can leverage more new projects off the existing renewable energy network in Queensland—like the neighbouring HPA First Project managed by Orica in Gladstone. This is industry working with industry and industry working with government to grow new industries and create even more jobs in Queensland.

The Miles government will continue to invest in jobs and growth in this great state of ours, because if we can make it here in Queensland we absolutely should. This is yet another major announcement for more jobs in Central Queensland. Only last week, as we heard from the Premier today, we launched Australia's first commercial hydrogen electrolyser in Gladstone and also the Acciona solar farm in the region. Queenslanders can always count on the Miles government to deliver more jobs by backing new industries in the regions.