




Speech By
Hon. Glenn Butcher

MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

Record of Proceedings, 21 May 2024

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Regional Queensland, Manufacturing

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (2.20 pm): Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker Kelly. I am wondering what it costs to hire helicopters these days? The member should know.

Last week's federal budget was certainly straight from the Labor playbook. Cost of living and manufacturing were front and centre of the budget. In terms of cost of living, there is an additional \$300 in energy rebates for households and \$325 for our fantastic small businesses in Queensland. It is great to see a federal government getting on board with its own energy rebates. There is \$1,000 from the Queensland government and \$300 from the federal government. We are not delivering cost-of-living relief just for brownie points; we are delivering cost-of-living relief because it is what Queenslanders need right now. What Queenslanders need from us is Labor governments always delivering, and that is what we will continue to do.

We can deliver this hip-pocket relief because we have multinational miners paying their fair share to Queenslanders. It is because we have kept our energy assets in public hands. Let us remember what the LNP's contribution was to cost-of-living relief last time it was in government. Jobs at the Gladstone Ports Corporation were on the chopping block under the LNP, just like the jobs of the energy and health workers in the Rockhampton region. They did it before and they will do it again. What about Central Queensland LNP members whingeing about last week's federal budget? There were a few half-hearted Facebook posts and radio grabs—just like noisy seagulls at the beach—offering nothing but consistently complaining about the good things being delivered by Labor governments in Australia.

Members of the LNP do not care about Central Queensland; members of the LNP care only about themselves. Instead of talking up bill relief for people in Calliope, tax cuts for families in New Acland or rent help for pensioners in Tannum Sands, all the member for Flynn is interested in is his pet project—nuclear energy in Central Queensland. It was much the same from the LNP's Michelle Landry and Matt Canavan—zero on cost of living and zero in substance. Under the LNP's watch, regional jobs were slashed and manufacturing went offshore with no plan for our future energy mix. It says it all about the LNP in Queensland.

Meanwhile, the Miles Labor government is just getting on with it, delivering hydrogen jobs in Gladstone and renewable and manufacturing jobs right across the regions right now. There is more to come thanks to this Miles Queensland government. I am pleased to see the Albanese government's \$22 billion Future Made in Australia package. This is a nation-building package from a Commonwealth government that is building on all the important steps that we have taken to support our manufacturers in Queensland. Our government has invested over \$207 million in manufacturing, creating and supporting 7,400 jobs in Queensland. This is just the tip of the iceberg in terms of what we can achieve

in the future and what is coming. The Albanese government wants to make Australia a renewable energy superpower. Manufacturing will certainly be a big part of that. There is \$1.5 billion for clean energy manufacturing through the Solar Sunshot and Battery Breakthrough programs.

I will continue to work with the Australian government, because that is what good state governments do, to make sure we get our fair share and to realise our potential as manufacturing leaders in this country. While the LNP get bogged down in their tired cultural wars and nuclear noise, we are getting on with it here in Queensland. We are benefiting from the renewables revolution and we will continue to benefit off the back of that. All we hear from those opposite and their mates in Canberra is negativity. They cannot help themselves in talking down jobs and the regions. It is in their DNA just like cutting, sacking and selling. I will be the first person to stand up for regional Queensland. I want to make sure we get a fair share for our state. Apart from seeing this hardworking Labor government re-elected in October, clearly we need more Labor MPs in Canberra as well, because those LNP seagulls opposite are just a distraction—all squawk and no solutions to anything. Never mind the right priorities. The LNP tagline needs to be: promise the world and deliver nothing. The Miles government will continue to deliver cost-of-living relief in Central Queensland and we will back our manufacturers.

(Time expired)