




Speech By
Hon. Steven Miles

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Alpha HPA

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Premier) (10.10 am): Queensland is leading the way when it comes to creating new industries, and today the Prime Minister has shown just how much the Australian government believes in this great state. Later today, Minister Butcher and I will join the Prime Minister at Alpha HPA in Gladstone to announce \$400 million in funding to help deliver Australia's first high-purity alumina processing facility. That high-purity alumina will be used in commonly needed items like energy efficient LED lighting, lithium batteries for electric vehicles and semiconductors.

Our government has paved the way to help this massive next step happen. This facility—which will create nearly 500 jobs during construction and 200 jobs on completion—is being built on our state development area. Last year, we announced more than \$21 million to help get stage 2 of the Alpha HPA First Project off the ground. Since then, up to another \$30 million has been committed from the Queensland Critical Minerals and Battery Technology Fund to help Alpha HPA take the next step in making sapphire glass.

By 2025, Australia will overtake China as the world's largest producer of high-purity alumina, and Queensland will reap the rewards of that work. Our confidence in growing new industries here in Queensland has given industry the confidence to invest in us. Just last week, as we opened Fortescue Future Industries' new electrolyser facility in Gladstone, Fortescue Metals CEO, Mark Hutchinson, said—

This is really the first time that we can see we have a real, tangible alternative to fossil fuels. So we're giving the world that alternative for fossil fuels. And it starts here in Gladstone.

The very next day we turned the sod on what will be one of the biggest solar farms in the world right near Gladstone. The Aldoga Solar Farm has pushed Acciona's investment in Queensland to over \$2.5 billion. Acciona's managing director, Brett Wickham, said that Queensland is—

... a destination place for us not only for skills, for natural resources for the sun and the wind but also it's for the alignment on how we can get projects through and the support that we receive here.

Whether it be producing high-purity alumina or building hydrogen electrolyzers or massive solar farms to generate energy, Queensland is leading the way in clean energy alternatives and the jobs that that energy can be used to create.