




Speech By
Hon. Glenn Butcher

MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

Record of Proceedings, 1 April 2025

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Gladstone Electorate, Services

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (2.36 pm): I take this opportunity to acknowledge the member for Gregory and the contribution he made. They are doing it tough out in Western Queensland.

Today I rise to talk about the repercussions and serious consequences for the people in the Gladstone region from the actions of the LNP government. These repercussions are not good for Gladstone. Let me start by talking about the nurse-led clinic that we have in Gladstone. I acknowledge the former health minister, Shannon Fentiman, when she came to Gladstone and announced that we were getting one of the first nurse-led walk-in clinics in Gladstone. My community was super excited about the opportunity, after you had finished a long day at work, to walk in with your family to see these nurses who could help you out from 8 am through to 10 pm, seven days a week.

When the LNP got into government, it opened the clinic. The first cut that it made as a government was to the nurse-led clinic in Gladstone, opening only six days a week in business hours. The people of Gladstone live in an industrial town. They want to be able to go and see specialist nurses after hours. The first cut that this government made, in its plan to cut health services here in Queensland, was in my community of Gladstone. The people of Gladstone will not forget that.

Mr Head interjected.

Mr BUTCHER: Moving on to the Workforce Attraction Incentive Scheme, we acknowledge what the member for Callide is saying. We did do it tough trying to attract specialists to come and help us deliver babies during that critical time when you could not even get one to come to Australia, let alone find one on the market to come to a regional community. It is a shame that the member for Callide continues to talk down the health service. They have been in government nearly 150 days and still cannot get the Biloela clinic back open to deliver babies.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Gladstone, I am struggling to hear you for the noise that is coming from my left.

Mr BUTCHER: This attraction fund that was set up was designed to get specialists to come to regional Queensland. The first thing that this government did was to cut that program in regional Queensland. I would have thought the member for Callide would have been cranky about this. Where is the anger now? Where is the debate on why we cannot get doctors out to Biloela? There is none!

I turn now to the Port of Gladstone, a fantastic port that delivers for the communities of Queensland and, in particular, South-East Queensland, in terms of the amount of bulk that goes out of there that delivers back into the state to help us with our health and our education. What did the LNP government do to the Port of Gladstone board? Five members of that board, including the chair, were

sacked. Not one representative on that board comes from the Gladstone region. Not one person on the board of the Gladstone Ports Corporation can speak for Gladstone—what it means for Gladstone and what it can do for Gladstone. The LNP stand for getting rid of the people they do not want and putting their mates on boards. We in Gladstone know how disgusting that is.

I move on to Powerlink and the cuts to the training hub in Gladstone. A stakeholder sent me a letter about Powerlink in which she states—

Powerlink is currently reviewing the design scope of the Gladstone Hub—

and we know what that means; it means cuts—

after deciding not to pursue the funding commitment made by the previous State Government. This decision ensures the project progresses and provides certainty to the industry, to the region, and our people.

I do not know how, when they are going to cut the project. This is disgraceful. She continues—

We remain steadfast in our commitment to a permanent presence in the region, growing our employees and capabilities, including apprentices.

How on earth can you maintain apprentices in an environment where they will not be able to learn, as the project that was being delivered by the Labor government has now been cut? I remind the new members that the LNP ran against me a candidate who worked at the Gladstone Ports Corporation. He said that his experience as a sustainability specialist allowed him to understand what it would mean for the port to be leased. That is their legacy.

(Time expired)