




Speech By
Hon. Glenn Butcher

MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

Record of Proceedings, 10 June 2025

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Moonlight Range Wind Farm

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (2.50 pm): I rise today not just as the proud member for Gladstone but as a deeply concerned voice for a region that has been deliberately betrayed by this L-plate LNP government—a government that continues to prove it is not ready, it is not capable and it certainly is not interested in standing up for regional Queensland.

The LNP's reckless decision to axe the Moonlight Range Wind Farm is not just an attack on renewals; it is an attack on Gladstone's future. This was not some speculative, distant proposal; it was real—it was job-creating investment. It was a driver project, ready to deliver economic growth, ready to deliver energy security and ready to deliver long-term prosperity for Central Queensland. The L-plate LNP government slammed the brakes on it with no plan, no consultation and no care for the consequences. They have ripped the rug out from under hundreds and hundreds of workers, local contractors and families in the region who were relying on that project to build themselves and their families a future.

This decision is ideological. It is short-sighted and destructive. It sends the chilling message to the industry that, under this amateur LNP government, Queensland is closed for business—especially when it comes to renewables. Let's call it for what it is: economic sabotage. The Moonlight Range Wind Farm would have powered up to 260,000 homes with clean, affordable energy. It would have supported heavy industry in Gladstone to decarbonise and remain competitive in a low-carbon world. Instead, the LNP's cuts will drive industry away from places like Gladstone. It will drive up prices and it will drive jobs out of town.

This is not the first thing they have done. When the LNP pulled out support from Stanwell's CQ-H2 hydrogen project we also saw Fortescue walk away, and with it 20 skilled jobs disappeared overnight. That means there are 20 families in the Gladstone region who are left behind. We all know it will not stop there. The LNP's abandonment of clean energy is already causing real-world damage. They do not understand Gladstone, they do not understand regional Queensland and, frankly, they do not care. Their silence as to what comes next is deafening.

What is the LNP's plan to reduce the number of jobs that have been lost? What is their vision to attract investment into Central Queensland and Gladstone? There is none—nothing. All we get from this government is spin, slogans and, as we are seeing now, cuts. There are no answers and no leadership, just ideological warfare against progress. Gladstone does not want handouts. We want a government that backs us in. We want secure jobs. We want reliable investment and a future where our kids can live and work in their home town. We will not be forced onto planes to go and get the jobs that were taken from us by a government asleep at the wheel. Cutting renewables is not just bad policy: it is economic vandalism.

The world is moving forward, but under the LNP Queensland is being dragged backwards by a Premier and cabinet that is still on its learner plates. The people of Gladstone deserve so much more than what this LNP government stands for. We will not stand by while this government sacrifices our future in the Gladstone region. I call on the LNP government here in Queensland to come clean with their so-called plan—a plan that nobody knows anything about. What we do know is that they are cutting projects already. They do have not a single plan they can announce as to what jobs are coming to regional Queensland.

It was a Labor government that brought the LNG industry to a place like Gladstone. As a result of the foresight and decisions made by the former Labor government, which cared about workers and the people of our regional communities, there were jobs on the ground during the global financial crisis. What we are seeing now is the exact opposite. They are driving away the market and driving away investment. Right now their inaction is costing us jobs, it is costing us growth in the Gladstone region and it is costing us time that we cannot afford to lose in this state.