




Speech By
Hon. Glenn Butcher

MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

Record of Proceedings, 30 October 2025

PRIVATE MEMBER STATEMENT

Gladstone Ports Corporation Board

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (2.12 pm): I rise today to speak on behalf of the people of Gladstone—hardworking, community minded locals who are rightly outraged by the action of the Crisafulli government in stripping away their voices from the Gladstone Ports Corporation Board. The people of Gladstone deserve to be heard and represented in decisions that affect their livelihoods.

For generations the Port of Gladstone has been the beating heart of our regional economy, built by the hands of local workers, guided by the knowledge of local industry and represented by proud Gladstone people who understand our community, our economy and our future. The port is not just an economic asset; it is part of our city's identity and our pride. It supports thousands of local jobs in Gladstone and underpins critical industries and strengthens Queensland's position nationally and internationally.

However, what have we seen from this LNP government? We have seen a blatant power grab. Every single local representative has been removed from the Gladstone Ports Corporation and replaced with Brisbane-based political connections. Locals who have served with distinction, who know our industries, who know our workers and our challenges in Gladstone, have been sidelined to make room for party insiders. This is not about performance; it is about politics. It is about the LNP once again treating regional Queensland like a resource that needs to be managed, not a community to be respected or heard.

If that was not bad enough, we now learn that the government has also appointed former LNP member for Gregory Lachlan Millar to the Gladstone Area Water Board of all things—a move that reeks of political favouritism. These are critical organisations in the Gladstone region that shape our jobs, infrastructure and environmental future, not places for recycled political loyalists to come into Gladstone.

The people of Gladstone deserve better. They deserve representation from people who live in Gladstone, who work in Gladstone and who understand the unique challenges we face in our part of the regions in Queensland. Gladstone is not a political playground; it is a proud, hardworking and resilient community that demands and deserves respect, recognition and proper representation in all key decision-making bodies and boards in the Gladstone region. Gladstone is calling on this government to put a Gladstone representative on the Gladstone Ports Corporation Board, like we have had for decades and generations in the Gladstone region. It is imperative that they make this decision and implement it right now.