

Federal Opposition Leader Anthony Albanese has paid a visit to a crucial seat during a trip through Central Queensland.



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## Gladstone

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Federal Opposition Leader Anthony Albanese has paid a visit to Gladstone, followed by a number of other Labor politicians and candidates and a large media gathering.

The opposition leader visited the Yarwun Refinery in Gladstone after making a pitstop in Gracemere to announce [\\$6 million for Beef 2024](#) on Thursday, January 13.

After leaving Yarwun, he visited the CMERC with candidate for Flynn Matt Burnett, senators Murray Watt and Anthony Chisholm and member for Rankin Jim Chalmers.

This comes after \$15 million was pledged by Labor to improve the research centre's seaweed and mudcrab facilities.

They toured the facility and spoke to researchers working at the seaweed and mudcrab research areas.



Opposition Leader Anthony Albanese visiting CMERC in Gladstone (From left - Matt Burnett, Anthony Albanese, Luke Sinclair, (behind) Anthony Chisholm)

“A Labor government wants to protect our pristine marine ecosystems,” Mr Albanese said.

“It’s absolutely vital that we’re able to improve it and learn from research and here at Central Queensland University, it is the world’s best.”

When asked in Gracemere about bringing Inland Rail to Gladstone, Mr Albanese responded: “We support the feasibility study into the plan.”

“Rio Tinto’s facility at Yarwun is a vital facility and employes 692 people here in Gladstone directly,” he said at Gladstone.

“It’s one of the examples of when industry gets together and has good action on climate, its an opportunity to grow industry, to grow jobs right here in Central Queensland.”

“That will ensure that as part of Rio’s commitment to have a 50pc reduction... by 2030”

Labor candidate for Flynn Matt Burnett joined Mr Albanese on his tour across Central Queensland and Mackay.

“What this means for locals is when you put your boat in and head out to the reef, you can guarantee you’ll catch that... coral trout and when you head back here into the Gladstone Region, you can get that local mudcrab,” Mr Burnett said.

“I want to see more jobs in more industries, whether it’s in the beef industry, whether it’s the jobs in Yarwun or local industry in the Gladstone Region, of course, jobs in our fisheries and catching those fish in the Great Barrier Reef.”



Opposition Leader Anthony Albanese visiting CMERC in Gladstone(Matt Burnett and Anthony Albanese)

In light of the Opposition Leader’s visit, Dr Amanda Cahill from The Next Economy has welcomed Gladstone’s move towards green energy such as hydrogen, but warned Central Queensland needs more support to coordinate investment and developments through regional development funds and new transition authorities.

“It’s an exciting time for the region as businesses embrace renewable energy to develop new industries and jobs. We’re seeing opportunities emerge like the

manufacturing of green hydrogen and even talk of producing batteries and electrolysers in the region,” Dr Cahill said.

“We also need a lot more honesty about the future of coal in the region. There is a lot of uncertainty about how the region will manage the inevitable decline in coal fired electricity generation and coal exports and people want to see a plan.”

According to a report commissioned by Beyond Zero Emissions and conducted by ACIL Allen, a Renewable Energy Industrial Precinct in Gladstone could create about 11,000 local jobs and generate \$2 billion in revenue by 2032.

They say it would attract \$7.8 billion in capital investment to Gladstone and an additional \$2 billion in revenue will be made annually by 2032.



Opposition Leader Anthony Albanese visited CMERC in Gladstone

LNP Candidate for Flynn Colin Boyce recently hit out at Anthony Albanese’s environmental policies, claiming he was sending different messages in Melbourne than he was in Central Queensland.

“Each way Albo struggles to be convincing about supporting coal as he is beholden to the greens preferences,” Mr Boyce said on Facebook.



Opposition Leader Anthony Albanese visiting CMERC in Gladstone