



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Bailey**


**MEMBER FOR YEERONGPILLY**

---

Record of Proceedings, 16 September 2015

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Renewable Energy Reverse Auction**

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy and Water Supply) (2.41 pm): Mr Speaker, I am pleased to advise the House of the next steps the Palaszczuk government is taking towards making our 'Sunshine State' the solar state. During the election campaign we committed to a renewable energy reverse auction. I am delighted to advise the House that we will exceed our election commitment of 40 megawatts by 50 per cent. The auction will now be for solar projects only, and we will be collaborating with the Australian Renewable Energy Agency, Arena, to deliver the initiative.

This announcement of a solar-only focus will promote further investment into renewable energy developments, create new jobs of the future and send a welcome signal of support from the government to the renewable energy sector. By supporting up to 60 megawatts of extra renewable energy capacity, we are driving the establishment of large scale solar generation in this state, which is something that is long overdue. While Queensland leads the world in solar PV adoption rates on domestic and business rooftops—higher than Germany, California or Hawaii—our large scale solar industry is yet to be established to a significant degree.

Developing and expanding Queensland's renewable energy industry is a central component of the Palaszczuk government's clean energy policy agenda. Increasing the uptake of renewable energy in Queensland will not only respond to climate change and protect our environment but also create new jobs and, importantly, diversify our economy. Queensland has some of the best solar resources in the world and is ideally placed to benefit as solar generation becomes an increasingly important part of our electricity mix. By growing this industry we can develop jobs now and jobs for the future.

Unfortunately, last night we saw the deputy chair of the relevant parliamentary committee, the member for Southport, declare himself a renewable energy jobs sceptic. He also derided some of the latest technological advancements in the sector. You will have to forgive me, but I will take the opinion of Elon Musk over the Queensland LNP any day. In fact, the member for Southport seems to be unaware that lithium ion is driving battery technology, not lead. Under the previous LNP government we saw the renewable energy sector workforce lose around 1,300 jobs over three years. Now they not only want to slash renewable jobs in the sector retrospectively, but they want to do it in the future as well—a 20th century agenda.

I can also advise the House that the Queensland Productivity Commission has also received the terms of reference to commence a public review into a fair price for the cost of solar energy sold back into the electricity grid by homes and small businesses. We want a fair price for customers, regardless of whether a system is installed or is planned to be installed. The review's findings will further support

the take-up of solar as we push towards one million rooftops—or 3,000 megawatts—of solar PV capacity by 2020. This process will run concurrently with the recent announcement of Ergon Energy’s 150 megawatt large scale renewable energy expression of interest and will help drive an unprecedented amount of renewable energy investment and jobs in Queensland.