



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Bailey**


**MEMBER FOR YEERONGPILLY**

---

Record of Proceedings, 28 October 2015

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Renewable Energy**

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy and Water Supply) (2.29 pm): Rebuilding the renewable energy industry in Queensland after the neglect of the Newman years is underway. Last month, I advised the House that the renewable energy auction promised by the Palaszczuk government at the last election will exceed our election commitment of 40 megawatts by 50 per cent. At the last sitting, I advised the House that there had been strong interest in the auction, with 30 potential project consortiums having registered their interest already. Increasing the uptake of renewable energy in the Sunshine State will not only be good for our environment but also create the new jobs of the future and diversify our economy.

The solar auction is not the only renewable energy project occurring in Queensland. In late August 2015, Ergon released an expression of interest to contract electricity via renewable energy certificates from new renewable energy projects in Queensland. If these projects were not built in Queensland, they would be built somewhere else—as happened over the past three years under the LNP. On 23 September 2015, the initial period for responses closed. I am very pleased to inform the House that Ergon has received proposals from 22 renewable energy development companies, some with multiple project options. In total, about 2,000 megawatts of projects have been submitted from proposed new solar PV, wind and bagasse projects. A large spread of pricing from these projects has been seen. However, I can advise that Ergon is encouraged by the strong level of competitive pricing from some of the projects that are well advanced in development. Ergon is on track to work through the responses to create a short list by the end of October, with a view to forming contracts with some of these projects later this year and early next year.

While the Palaszczuk government is blazing a renewable energy future for Queensland, it is time the federal government stopped blocking renewable energy projects and started approving them. The Deputy Premier called in and approved the 2,025 megawatt Mount Emerald wind farm in North Queensland more than six months ago and it has been on the federal minister's desk gathering dust ever since. It is time the federal government approved the Mount Emerald wind farm to kickstart Queensland's clean energy future and much needed clean energy North Queensland jobs. The new Prime Minister and federal energy minister, Josh Frydenberg, may talk the talk, but for Queensland's clean energy future, it is time for them to walk the walk.