




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR YEERONGPILLY

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Renewable Energy

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy and Water Supply) (10.07 am): The Palaszczuk government is surging forward, building Queensland's renewable energy sector and the jobs that go with it after the neglect of the Newman years. Ergon is expanding its commitment to sourcing renewable energy for its customers with a strong response for detailed submissions from companies that can help us to meet this goal.

As I told the House last sitting, Ergon's expression of interest for renewable energy project developments yielded 22 organisations representing 2,000 megawatts of capacity. Ergon received strong interest from renewable energy project developers in regional Queensland, and today I can release a list of seven projects that have been short-listed. The short-listed projects comprise two wind farms, four solar farms and a biomass project. Companies and projects selected for the short list comprises over 500 megawatts of renewable energy capacity and include the Mount Emerald Wind Farm, 50 per cent Ratch and 50 per cent Port Bajool; the Ratch Australia Corporation's Collinsville solar farm; Infigen's Forsayth wind farm; the Cleveland Power-Darwalla group's Mount Cotton biomass project; FRV Services' Clare Solar Farm and Lilyvale; and Lyon Infrastructure Investments' Cooktown solar.

Ergon will now work with each of the short-listed proponents with a view to entering into commercial power purchasing agreements with the successful companies. They plan to have that completed by early next year contingent on final terms and conditions to meet the 150 megawatt target. Ergon will partner with new renewable energy projects with companies which have demonstrated that their projects will contribute significantly to Ergon meeting its renewable energy requirements. Companies that have not been successful may have an opportunity through subsequent Ergon initiatives or other renewable programs being run by the Queensland government and ARENA.

This is just the latest development in Queensland's renewable energy sector after a huge year of recovery. The Solar 60 project that we are partnering with ARENA on will deliver 60 megawatts of renewable energy. We have battery trials going on now in partnership with ARENA, Sunverge and Ergon. We are testing and working out the best interface with customers for batteries and solar PV. We are on the cutting edge. We also have industrial batteries going out on the Ergon network right across Queensland in 20 different locations, in comparison to the 1,300 jobs that were lost under the Newman government and three years of inaction, three years of—

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. I think you have exhausted your time.