




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Renewable Energy

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.36 am): I have important news for Queensland. At the last election I committed this government to embrace new industries including biofuels and large-scale renewable energy to generate more jobs and attract more investment. My government committed to a public inquiry into establishing Queensland's 50 per cent renewable energy target by 2030. Under the previous LNP government there was no uptake of large-scale renewable energy projects, and it sat by while Queensland lost 1,300 renewable energy sector jobs.

I can announce today that Ergon Energy has offered a power purchase agreement to Mount Emerald wind farm in Far North Queensland. This is a joint venture between Ratch Australia and Port Bajool. Under this government's commitment to renewable energy, last year the government owned Ergon Energy undertook an expressions of interest process for up to 150 megawatts of renewable energy. The EOI sought new renewable energy projects that could help Ergon discharge its obligations under the national renewable energy target in Queensland. The opportunity was to support new renewable energy projects in Queensland that can generate renewable energy as well as jobs locally.

If executed, the offer of a PPA to Mount Emerald wind farm would secure 170 megawatts of renewable energy for Queensland—20 megawatts more than the EOI had initially sought. The project would mean wind energy in Queensland would increase by 15 times, with only 12 megawatts of installed wind energy in our state. To put this project into further perspective, the electricity it could generate could power a city the size of Mackay.

The proponent has advised that during the construction phase employment will peak at more than 150 jobs. In terms of investment and economic activity, the projections are for more than \$400 million in total expenditure in the region over the two-year construction and 25-year life of the project, with more than \$900 million when all indirect flow-on impacts are taken into account over the same period.

I would like to pay tribute to the shareholding ministers—the Treasurer and the energy minister—and the Deputy Premier, who oversaw the planning approval for this project last year.