




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Record of Proceedings, 13 September 2016

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Solar Industry

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.50 am): I have made it a priority for this government to help create new industries in Queensland so we can diversify our economy and create new job opportunities into the future. I can report to the House that Queensland now has a brand-new, large-scale commercial solar industry to call our own. We have long been—

Ms Jones interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I take that interjection. We have long been touted as a potential national and world leader when it comes to solar energy.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: What do they have against solar?

Ms Trad: Latte sipping, champagne drinkers.

Ms PALASZCZUK: We will get to that later.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, members. It is early. We will wait.

Ms PALASZCZUK: At the last election the Deputy Premier and I announced our strategy to kick-start Queensland's large-scale solar industry through our Solar 40 package. Now in government we have increased that to Solar 150 and the results are beginning to show. Last week ARENA, the Australian Renewable Energy Agency, announced around \$51 million of funding will be allocated to the construction of six large-scale, commercial solar generation projects in Queensland. That means over 50 per cent of their funding allocation will go to Queensland, the strongest possible vote of confidence in our Solar 150 policy and the future of a solar industry in this state. The six projects selected are worth over \$600 million and will generate 300 megawatts of solar power. The projects are Whitsunday Solar Farm, the Kidston Solar Project, Oakey Solar Farm, Longreach Solar Farm, Darling Downs Solar Farm and Collinsville Solar Farm. The Darling Downs project, at over 100 megawatts, will be the largest solar farm in the country. Importantly, these projects are expected to support more than 500 jobs during construction and hundreds of other jobs indirectly. I thank very much Minister Bailey for all his hard work in helping to drive this brand-new industry for Queensland.