




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Mount Emerald Wind Farm

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.31 am): The development of a large-scale renewable energy industry in Queensland has taken a massive stride forward. The 180-megawatt Mount Emerald Wind Farm in North Queensland has reached financial close. Queensland currently has only 12 megawatts of wind energy. The Mount Emerald Wind Farm will not only generate clean energy but also provide 150 direct jobs during construction and \$380 million in investment.

Construction is expected to start before Christmas. For example, the towers and the wind turbines will soon be brought through the Cairns port and transported to site. During the process there will also be requirements to employ local professional services. Significantly, the Mount Emerald Wind Farm has a commitment from the government owned Ergon Energy to purchase all of the electricity generated by the wind farm through to the end of 2030. The project now has engineering procurement and construction contracts in place, a long-term operations and maintenance contract, a 25-year grid connection agreement with Powerlink and finance secured.

The wind farm is in addition to the six renewable energy projects supported by Arena being built across the state including in Georgetown, Oakey, Longreach and two projects in the Whitsundays. The wind farm and the six Arena supported projects will deliver over \$1 billion in investment, around 750 direct jobs and hundreds more indirect jobs into our regions. We are harnessing renewable energy and driving new energy into jobs and investment in Queensland.