



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Bailey**


**MEMBER FOR YEERONGPILLY**

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Record of Proceedings, 18 February 2016

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Renewable Energy, Battery Storage**

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (10.01 am): Energy supply in Queensland is undergoing a transformational change in the way in which it is generated, transported and used. Battery storage is a game changer in this transformation. Yesterday, I attended the inaugural Queensland Energy Storage Summit, which was sponsored by the Queensland government. Declining costs and technology breakthroughs have the storage market poised for substantial growth. It is fitting that the first energy storage summit was held here in Brisbane. With the highest number of rooftop solar PV systems installed in Australia, Queensland is a prime market for battery manufacturers and suppliers.

Queensland's world-leading solar PV penetration could well be a template for future battery storage uptake as technology costs fall. That is why Silicon Valley firm Sunverge opened an office in Brisbane last year. That is why Tesla has brought one of its first Powerwall batteries here to Queensland, which was welcomed and inspected by the Premier and I at Energex at Rocklea only last month.

We want to leverage Queensland's market-leading solar industry and expertise into a new battery storage industry. That is why Ergon and Energex are testing and trialling more than half a dozen of the latest batteries to inform cutting-edge policy in Queensland. But we need to make sure that regulatory and policy settings keep up with the technology. I can advise the House that the Palaszczuk government will be providing funding of more than \$300,000 to Ergon Energy for battery storage and solar PV initiatives. One hundred thousand dollars of this funding will go towards fast-tracking the development of a national safety standard for batteries. Our aim is for the battery safety standard to be ready by the end of the year. Recently, the CSIRO identified a number of gaps in technical standards and industry training for battery storage. We intend to bring together industry and regulators to address these issues as a priority. Renewable energy is a job generator and it is important that we develop a long-term strategy to ensure that the Queensland economy benefits now and in the decades to come.

Late last month, the Palaszczuk government delivered on another election commitment, with the launch of our renewable energy task force. This high-calibre expert panel will assess and establish credible pathways to a 50 per cent renewable energy target in Queensland by 2030. The panel will be chaired by Mr Colin Mugglestone, an investment banker, engineer and infrastructure specialist who was previously the head of energy and utilities at Macquarie Capital. This expert panel, with three of its five members being from the private sector, has a deliberately strong business and commercial focus because we are serious about the commercial and job opportunities that are available in this area for Queensland. The Palaszczuk government's commitment to the renewable energy sector will create the jobs of the future, boost new investment, act on climate change and will keep turning Queensland, the sunshine state, into the solar state.