




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR YEERONGPILLY

Record of Proceedings, 25 February 2016

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Renewable Energy

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (2.59 pm): The Palaszczuk government is committed to renewable energy and to transitioning our economy to a cleaner energy economy, to act on climate change, to grow our jobs and to grow our state economy. We are turning the Sunshine State into the solar state. With the second coming of the Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull, many in the renewable energy industry had great hope that we would turn the corner after the Stone Age policies of Tony Abbott. Many thought that Malcolm Turnbull would be a supporter of renewable energy. In 2010 as coalition leader he launched the Beyond Zero Emissions plan for a rapid transition to 100 per cent renewable energy in Australia. He spoke often of the moral and economic importance of acting decisively on climate change. When Tony Abbott took the leadership, Malcolm Turnbull called direct action 'irresponsible' and a 'fig leaf' for a climate policy. Six months after his election we can safely say that nothing has changed with the federal government. In fact, it has gotten worse than it was under Tony Abbott.

Tony Abbott's fig leaf of a policy in terms of direct action remains our climate policy for this country under Malcolm Turnbull. The legislation to repeal the Climate Change Authority, to scrap the Australian Renewable Energy Agency and the CEFC has not been withdrawn. Hundreds of climate scientists are being sacked by the CSIRO and the board of ARENA, the key partner in renewable energy in this state, is vacant. He is doing the same thing as Tony Abbott did: defer, delay and stall to stop renewable energy happening in this country—exactly the same position. The board of ARENA needs to be dealt with by the Prime Minister if he is to be taken seriously on renewable energy, but we are getting the same Tony Abbott tactics, the same hostility, the same nobbling of jobs, the same stopping of action on climate change.

Not one large project has been financed on renewable energy since the election of Malcolm Turnbull. The lack of renewable energy projects is not because of a lack of projects; there are projects right across Queensland waiting to go and we are committed to them as the Palaszczuk government under our Solar 60 project and under our Ergon expressions of interest. We have been overwhelmed by the interest from the private sector, but we need the federal government to start walking the walk, not just talking the talk. There are 17 projects with 1,000 megawatts of energy ready to go in Queensland and we need the federal government to come on board. We need wind driving our turbines, not debate. That is what we need in Queensland. We need the Prime Minister to start standing up for his values, whether it is on renewable energy, whether it is on marriage equality or whether it is on the republic. Who is this Prime Minister? Is he going to actually stand up for what he says he believes in or is he just going to continue Tony Abbott's policies of wrecking renewable energy across this country and wrecking renewable investment and jobs right across this country, including in Queensland?