




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR YEERONGPILLY

Record of Proceedings, 20 April 2016

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Solar Power Generation

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (2.33 pm): I am pleased to be able to stand here today and say that the transition of the Sunshine State to the solar state continues full beam ahead.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr BAILEY: I am doing my best. As at the end of March, Queensland now has more than 1,500 megawatts of installed solar generation capacity, which equates to half a million rooftops. That means that solar is now generating enough electricity in our state to effectively make it our second largest power station. It also means Queensland is now more than half way towards the Palaszczuk government's 2020 solar target of 3,000 megawatts. This milestone sees Queensland continue to demonstrate its world-leading credentials in the uptake of solar photovoltaics. Our state already has one of the highest uptakes of residential rooftop solar panels in the world as more Queenslanders continue to jump on board.

I can advise the House that close to 30 per cent of all detached homes in Queensland now have a solar system installed and are producing electricity from the sun's rays. Not only that, but the system sizes are increasing as businesses start to take up the opportunities that solar offers. There is strong potential for future growth in emerging sectors, especially as battery storage systems enter the market and product costs continue to fall. Customers are installing smaller scale solar at a rate of approximately one panel per minute. Couple that with Queensland's impressive pipeline of proposed large-scale solar PV projects and the state is well on its way to its 2020 solar target of a million solar rooftops.

Short-listed large-scale solar projects include many in North Queensland in places like Collinsville, Hughenden, Kidston and Proserpine. This is all part of our government's election commitment to invigorate the state's renewable energy sector. We will continue to boost investment and jobs in renewables as we play our part in addressing climate change and creating jobs now and into the future.