




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR YEERONGPILLY

Record of Proceedings, 12 May 2016

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Electricity Upgrades

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (10.06 am): The Palaszczuk government knows that our government owned electricity corporations help keep the lights on and the wheels of industry turning in our state. I am pleased to advise the House that the Palaszczuk government has approved a \$31 million upgrade of CS Energy's Callide B Power Station. This investment will bring enormous flow-on economic benefits to Central Queensland. The project will create and sustain 350 direct jobs over two months, in addition to supporting the power station's permanent workforce of around 205 employees. CS Energy will kick off works in July this year.

I am also pleased to advise the House that our publicly owned Powerlink Queensland is investing \$34 million in the Whitsundays transmission lines. The investment will improve network performance and support continued economic growth in the region. It is especially good to see given that one of the short-listed solar projects is up in that area. In fact, there are two of them—one in Collinsville and one in Proserpine. We are getting ready for some clean energy to flow into our power system. The Whitsundays project will involve refit works along the 76-kilometre Collinsville to Proserpine transmission line. This stretch of powerline is the backbone of the Whitsunday network, supplying high voltage electricity to Collinsville, Proserpine and the broader region. This \$34 million investment will support more than 90 jobs and help sustain the Whitsunday region's economy—one of Queensland's major tourism hubs—by further improving the network reliability. The works will commence mid-2016 and are expected to be completed by late 2018.

The Palaszczuk government promised to be a government that delivers jobs and a government that invests in our regions. We are able to deliver on our election commitment because the government has kept our power assets in public hands. These two major investments would not have been possible had our power stations and transmission lines been sold off by the opposition leader when he was treasurer in the Newman government. The upgrades are critical to continuing Queensland's reliable electricity supply and powering the Queensland economy.