




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR YEERONGPILLY

Record of Proceedings, 18 August 2016

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Renewable Energy

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (10.28 am): The Palaszczuk government is absolutely committed to renewable energy and a clean energy future for Queensland. What we inherited from the Nicholls-Newman government was a collapse of 1,300 renewable jobs over the three years of the Newman-Nicholls government at a time of massive global expansion of clean energy. Perhaps that is why we saw the highest level of unemployment in Queensland in 11 years under Tim Nicholls—a shameful record. He took the sun out of the Sunshine State when he abused solar users for being latte sippers and champagne drinkers.

Under the three years of the Newman government, they did not just sack 14,000 people; they did not get a single large-scale renewable project going in Queensland. How irresponsible, how 20th century, how absolutely anti jobs was Tim Nicholls as the treasurer under the Newman government! In contrast, the Palaszczuk government is not wasting any time getting a large-scale renewable energy industry established in Queensland in our first term of government.

Let me outline the construction that is underway at the moment: an 80-hectare, 25 megawatt Barcaldine Solar Farm; a five-megawatt Normanton Solar Farm in the north-west, in the member for Mount Isa's area; and 36 megawatts of power at Lakeland, with an innovative 5.4-megawatt lithium ion storage configuration. We have a power purchase agreement at Clare in North Queensland just below Townsville, and we have a power purchase agreement with Ergon for a wind farm behind Cairns that is big enough to power a city the size of Mackay. We are also seeing the short-listing of Whitsunday, Lilyvale, Collinsville and Forsayth as part of the ARENA project.

We are about to see a construction boom when it comes to renewable energy jobs in Queensland over the next 12 to 18 months. Under our Solar 120 program, we are tripling our renewable energy commitment to Queensland. That is something that the opposition in estimates was not even aware of. They had to ask questions about what it was. They are still not committed to renewables. In fact the comments from the shadow minister for the environment show they are still in the 20th century. He said—

There is no doubt that whilst climate change is real and has occurred over thousands of years, what has always been in scientific dispute is the extent of man's contribution.

He goes against a massive amount of scientific consensus on this, just like the member for Glass House, who said almost exactly the same thing when he was the environment minister. We still see hostility from the opposition on renewables. This government will make sure we deliver on renewable energy—clean energy—for the future for the Queensland.

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Glass House, I would like to make a couple of comments. I would urge members to refer to other members by their correct title. If my memory is correct, I think I have made previous comments in relation to matters like using the term 'the Newman-Nicholls government'. I believe that is not appropriate. I believe you should refer to the person by their correct title. I would urge members to—

A government member interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: No. I think it is more appropriate to refer to him by his correct title. I am not going to have a conversation. I now call the member for Glass House.