




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR YEERONGPILLY

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Solar Industry

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (10.01 am): The Palaszczuk government is turning the Sunshine State into the solar state, and today we are delivering a new industry for Queensland: a large-scale renewable energy industry to deliver more than 600 regional jobs and more than \$600 million worth of investment to act on climate change. We are achieving this after only 18 months in power. The Palaszczuk government inherited a renewable energy sector from the previous Newman government, of which the opposition leader was treasurer, which was struggling with low investor confidence and, due to their indifference, had no major projects coming online. At a time of widespread global expansion when we should have been embracing the opportunities of renewable energy, the Newman government shut down the office of clean energy in my department. To put it bluntly, it was a renewable energy blackout.

What a dramatic turnaround we have seen since then, with Queensland now well and truly on the map as a leader in renewable energy. I am pleased to say that, following the ARENA funding announcement last week, ARENA CEO Ivor Frischknecht and I will personally congratulate each of the successful Queensland proponents at a function here at Parliament House between one o'clock and two o'clock on the level 5 colonnade. I invite all members who would like to hear more about these exciting projects, which are worth more than \$600 million for Queensland, to come along to meet them and hear about it.

The Palaszczuk government's Solar 120 program has become the Solar 150 program. We are supporting four of the six projects, which represent 150 megawatts of power and provide financial certainty through long-term revenue contracts. This means that the Palaszczuk government is almost quadrupling our election commitment to deliver a 40-megawatt reverse auction of renewable energy. The Solar 150 program delivers excellent value for money for the people of Queensland, with costs and risks shared with private sector proponents and ARENA. Two of the three largest solar farms will be here in Queensland. In this round we have landed more than 60 per cent of the megawatts in the whole national round in Queensland. There will be no impact on electricity prices despite the scaremongering of the opposition, who either do not understand our energy sector or are deliberately misleading. I would like to pay tribute to ARENA, who have been a fantastic partner throughout this process. ARENA's role in funding innovative renewable energy technology is critical and must continue if we are to transition to a zero emissions future. The Turnbull coalition government should be condemned for their plan to rip \$1.3 billion from ARENA, risking jobs and investment in the renewable energy sector in our state.

This is just the beginning under the Palaszczuk government. It is the dawn of a new large-scale renewable energy industry in our state, and I look forward to the growth of this industry in the months and years ahead to reduce climate change impacts, support regional jobs and build a better Queensland.