



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Bailey**


**MEMBER FOR YEERONGPILLY**

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Record of Proceedings, 12 October 2016

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Renewable Energy, Expert Panel**

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (2.24 pm): The Palaszczuk government is delivering on its election commitment to grow the renewable energy sector in Queensland to create jobs, to boost investment and to act on climate change. The Palaszczuk government is taking a responsible and thorough approach to increasing the level of renewable energy in Queensland over the next 14 years. In January this year I appointed an independent expert panel of energy industry experts to identify credible pathways to a 50 per cent renewable energy target for Queensland by 2030. The panel has significant private sector experience and is chaired by Mr Colin Mugglestone, former head of energy and utilities with Macquarie Group.

Earlier today the independent panel released its credible pathways draft report, which contains the panel's draft findings and recommendations. Importantly, the expert panel has found that Queensland can continue to enjoy its reliable electricity supply while meeting a 50 per cent renewable energy target by 2030. This is due to significant base load generation remaining online with no closures projected under two of the three pathways identified by the panel to achieve the target over the next 14 years. Queensland has a diverse mix of energy sources. With around 8,000 megawatts of coal and 2,000 megawatts of gas-fired generation, Queensland is a net exporter of energy and electricity. The panel projects that, as renewable sources like wind and solar grow, coal and gas will continue to have an important role, giving the state an even more diverse supply while maintaining flexibility and security.

The expert panel has also engaged closely with the Australian Energy Market Operator, and the Palaszczuk government will continue to work proactively with AEMO to ensure that the system's security and reliability are at the forefront of our planning into the future. The panel's modelling also projects that a 50 per cent target will have a cost-neutral impact for electricity consumers—let me say it again; cost neutral—under all three pathways. This is due to additional supply from the renewable generators placing downward pressure on wholesale electricity prices projected to offset payments to renewable energy projects.

This finding is broadly consistent with other recent modelling commissioned by the Queensland Productivity Commission and the federal Renewable Energy Target review. The draft report finds there will be \$6.7 billion of new investment through the policy, delivering broad benefits to the Queensland economy. This includes a net increase in employment of 6,400 workers, direct and indirect, on average between 2020 and 2030. The panel expects these jobs will mainly occur in regional Queensland. Let me repeat that number: 6,400 jobs.

The panel will now conduct further public consultation across Queensland before delivering its final report to government by the end of the year. The work of the independent expert panel adds to the \$600 million worth of investment Queensland is receiving through its Solar 150 and ARENA grant

funding announced a few weeks ago and the more than 600 direct jobs that come with it. I encourage all interested stakeholders to get involved in this important process over the next five weeks to help shape our transition to the clean energy economy of the future and the jobs that go with it.