




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR YEERONGPILLY

Record of Proceedings, 12 October 2016

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Renewable Energy

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (2.55 pm): Today we saw the handing down of a draft report by the expert panel on renewable energy. This is a very substantial piece of work, particularly in the context of an ill-founded debate in the last few weeks which was provoked by the federal government. There has been some doubt cast over Queensland's ability to deliver on its 50 per cent renewable energy target over the next 14 years to 2030. This report today bells the cat because it identifies not one pathway, but three pathways to 50 per cent renewable energy in Queensland over the next 14 years.

Let me be very clear that this is an independent report. It is a draft report that we will put out for a range of public consultation over the next six weeks before a final report comes down at the end of the year, and this government will fully consider every aspect of it. When you look at the calibre of private sector people in particular on the expert panel who have done the hard yards and the hard-nosed economics, they have come up with three credible pathways to 50 per cent renewable energy by 2030 from the current level of seven per cent. All pathways are credible and cost neutral. That is excellent news for electricity consumers, especially after 43 per cent increases under Tim Nicholls, the current Leader of the Opposition. We are looking at action on climate change, jobs and economic development in Queensland's regions whichever pathway we decide upon.

What we are also seeing in this report is that, across the three credible pathways, two of them say very clearly there will be no closure of power stations in Queensland over the next 14 years. Why is that? Because we have four super-critical power stations. We have the youngest and most efficient fleet in Queensland. We are in the perfect position to guide this transition and grow up to 6,400 jobs in regional Queensland in particular. You would think the opposition might support that. They talk a lot about jobs, but when it comes to backing them in they do not act. They gave us the highest unemployment in 11 years yet they attack clean energy jobs across Queensland. This is in the context of a reliable supply of electricity. The independent panel works very closely with the energy market operator to ensure that is the case. This is a very substantial contribution to jobs and economic growth for Queensland and a blueprint for a clean energy industry in Queensland. The federal government has a lot to learn from the substance in this report—

(Time expired)