



Speech By  
**Shane King**


**MEMBER FOR KALLANGUR**

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**MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Queensland Economy; Renewable Energy**

 **Mr KING** (Kallangur—ALP) (12.07 pm): I would like to start by referring to the good news that we heard this morning from the Deloitte report. I was disappointed that the member for Indooroopilly has not read it. He continues to talk down the Queensland economy. The report states that it expects the state's economic growth to look good through to the end of this decade. It is glaringly clear.

I want to talk about Solar 150, Arena's large-scale solar announcement. The Palaszczuk government's Solar 150 program will turn Queensland, the sunshine state, into the solar state. Just 18 months ago we inherited a large-scale renewable energy sector from the previous Newman-Nicholls government, if I may still say that. Some members opposite appear to be embarrassed about that, so I will say—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Farmer): Order! Member for Kallangur, we are still waiting for a ruling on that. I believe that the point that was raised by the member for Surfers Paradise is probably correct. While we are seeking advice on that ruling, I will ask members to just refer to the Newman government.

**Mr KING:** Allow me to correct that: the previous LNP government of those who do not wish to be named. The renewable energy sector of that government was struggling with local investor confidence and no major projects were coming on line. To put it bluntly, it was a renewable energy blackout. Since then, we have seen a dramatic turnaround. Queensland is now well and truly on the map.

**Mr Crandon** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Coomera.

**Mr KING:** Madam Deputy Speaker, thank you for your protection. With our Solar 150 program the Palaszczuk government is almost quadrupling its election commitment to deliver a 40-megawatt reverse auction, with the Palaszczuk government supporting four of the six projects representing nearly 150 megawatts through long-term revenue contracts.

We are building a large-scale renewable energy industry, creating investment and jobs and acting on climate change. Six Queensland solar projects totalling 300 megawatts receiving Arena grant funding this year will increase our existing large-scale solar generation 30-fold, inject investment of more than \$630 million and support more than 600 direct jobs. Let us look at some of these projects. The Kidston Solar Project has a 50-megawatt capacity. Phase 2 will take that out to a 150-megawatt capacity. It will provide 100 direct jobs and power up to 20,000 homes. The Oakey Solar Farm has a 25-megawatt capacity, will provide 50 direct jobs and power up to 10,000 homes. The Longreach Solar Farm has a capacity of 15 megawatts, will provide 30 direct jobs and power up to 6,000 homes. The

Whitsunday Solar Farm just near Strathmore substation—I know well where it connects in—has a 58-megawatt capacity, will provide 116 direct jobs and power 23,000 homes. The Darling Downs Solar Farm has a 110-megawatt capacity, will provide 220 direct jobs and power up to 44,000 homes. Collinsville Solar Farm, receiving Arena grant funding, has a capacity of 42 megawatts, will provide 84 direct jobs and will power 17,000 homes. The solar farms at Strathmore and Collinsville are very good for the town. In a previous life I spent a bit of time in Collinsville disconnecting the old power station from the grid. Under the previous government—we will not mention any names—the town was dying. It is good to see that we can deliver jobs in those communities.

This is fantastic news for our regional economies, supporting jobs at a time when jobs and job security are more important than ever. The Renewable Energy Expert Panel's draft report released last month shows not one but three credible pathways to get to our renewable energy target of 50 per cent by 2030. The draft report identifies that our renewable energy target is achievable, cost effective and provides for a sustainable approach in our commitment to reduce carbon emissions and to act on climate change. The Palaszczuk government is committed to maintaining affordability as we transition to our renewable energy future. Importantly, the expert panel's modelling projects that a 50 per cent target could have a cost-neutral impact on electricity prices. This is because competition from new renewable generators is anticipated to place downward pressure on wholesale prices. We have consumers' interests front and centre.

Let us be clear: Queensland's renewable energy target was developed in the absence of federal policy. The Turnbull government still does not have a renewable energy policy beyond 2020, only a strategy to scare Queensland businesses and consumers for a political agenda. Last month the renewable energy target panel held forums across Queensland in Cairns, Mackay, Rockhampton, Bundaberg, Toowoomba and the Gold Coast. Hundreds of Queenslanders attended and I am advised feedback was very positive towards our renewable energy target. I could go on and on about this because I am very passionate about it, but I will leave it there.