




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles
MEMBER FOR MOUNT COOT-THA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef) (10.07 am): Last week I released the outcomes of a new study showing that Queensland's greenhouse gas emissions are on track to increase by 35 per cent by 2030 if no new actions are taken. This is the carbon pollution legacy that the LNP left for Queensland. In the eight years from—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, I would urge you to be more considered in your comments.

Dr MILES: In the eight years from 2005 to 2013, Queensland's emissions were declining while the economy continued to grow thanks to the forward-thinking policies of successive Labor governments.

Ms Jones interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister for Education, I do not need your assistance.

Dr MILES: Then the LNP came along. Those opposite dismantled Queensland's carbon pollution reduction measures and left us without a strategy for reducing our emissions. Now we can see that their plan was in fact for Queensland's pollution to increase by more than a third over the same period that Australia is looking to decrease its carbon pollution.

The modelling shows that the progress we were making on land use and energy sector emissions have reversed. Land-clearing rates doubled in Queensland in the first two years of the LNP government. We are now releasing more carbon into the atmosphere from land clearing in Queensland than at any time in the last eight years. Some 90 per cent of Australia's emissions from land use now come from Queensland. At a time when the rest of the world is reducing its emissions, Queensland is driving Australia's emissions up—thanks to the LNP's reckless and irresponsible approach. The previous LNP government put so many policies in place that actively harmed our environment. It was in climate change and land clearing that they were most backwards.

It is now clear that political and economic leaders throughout the world no longer contest the reality of climate change. This was made clear at the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference, which saw a reinvigorated commitment and consensus to transform the world's fossil fuel driven economy and to slow and ultimately halt the pace of global warming. Yet here in Queensland the LNP inherited sound laws on vegetation management and effective policies and programs to reduce our carbon pollution—and they scrapped the lot. Once again, it will be a Labor government that leads the way in this state and takes on climate change to ensure that our kids do not miss out on the clean energy jobs of the future.