




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

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Record of Proceedings, 11 May 2016

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Palaszczuk Labor Government, Jobs

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef) (2.25 pm): The Palaszczuk government is focused on where jobs are likely to grow and the policy settings and infrastructure that are needed to best support that growth. The big question for me is: in 10 years time, when kids like my son Sam finish school, what kinds of jobs will they be looking for? Change will happen. Smart people and smart governments will identify trends and anticipate them. Technology is a big driver, and we have already seen a shift to a knowledge economy—an economy geared towards growth in high-technology industries, more highly skilled labour and the productivity gains that come with that.

We have long been told that a growing economy is by necessity more carbon intensive—that is, economic growth cannot be achieved without emissions growth—but in recent years this notion has been debunked. The decoupling of economic growth and pollution growth has been achieved, so it is a shame we went three years without a plan for how Queensland can grow jobs while cutting pollution. It is even more shameful that the federal government continues to refuse to present any meaningful policies. Projections by my department show that because of this policy failure Queensland's greenhouse gas pollution is projected to increase by 35 per cent to 2030.

Today I released our discussion paper on making the transition to a low-carbon future. The paper, 'Advancing climate action in Queensland', asks Queenslanders to share their ideas and feedback on the opportunities we should be prioritising and actions that ensure we do our bit to reduce carbon pollution and secure our fair share of the clean energy jobs of the future here in Queensland. Modelling by the Climate Institute found that generating enough renewable energy to meet a target of 20 per cent of Australia's electricity will generate \$19 billion in investment nation-wide and create more than 31,000 extra full-time jobs. At least 6,000 of those jobs will be in Queensland, but that is a conservative estimate. If the target were raised to 50 per cent as proposed nationally by federal Labor, the investment would surge to about \$50 billion, creating about 17,500 new jobs in Queensland. The waste sector is another area where we are seeing a surge in jobs growth. As it turns out, one person's trash is another person's treasure—or maybe one person's trash is another person's high-skilled, secure, clean-energy job.

Last year the Premier declared her commitment to a biofutures agenda and in particular the creation of a biofuels industry in Queensland. A great example is Northern Oil, a company which recently made a commitment to invest in establishing a pilot plant for an entirely new biofuel refinery near Gladstone. The refinery will be a second generation producer with the capacity to process an exceptional range of feedstocks. We want to attract more investments like these to allow these industries to grow and flourish. Our task as the Queensland government is to make sure our fair share of the jobs and industries of the future are built here in Queensland for our children.