




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

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Climate Change

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef) (10.21 am): The Premier and the Minister for Energy have already outlined to the House how the Palaszczuk Labor government is creating a new industry here in Queensland—a new large-scale renewable industry. That is important because those six projects will create jobs in our regions—600 direct jobs. I am not sure why the LNP is so concerned about all of these new jobs in the regions, but Labor is for them. We support these projects because they are creating new jobs in Queensland regions and because they will reduce our carbon pollution. July 2016 was the 15th month in a row where global temperatures were higher than the 20th century average. Global land and ocean July temperatures have now continuously exceeded the 20th century average since 1976. The international community—those opposite may not—has accepted that action to reduce carbon pollution by midcentury is required from all nations. Queensland was once a national leader on climate change, but at a time when other states were rapidly embracing the transition we were left unprepared by the former LNP government's systemic dismantling of these forward-looking policies.

In contrast, the Palaszczuk government is revitalising climate change action and embracing the solutions already available so we can build a more sustainable and prosperous Queensland. The government is revitalising action on climate change and has committed a further \$6.8 million over four years to develop and implement a Queensland climate change strategy. We have heard Queenslanders loud and clear. They want us to do our fair share to reduce the pollution we generate here in Queensland. Earlier this month submissions closed on our 'Advancing climate action in Queensland' discussion paper and we received more than 6,000 submissions. At its peak we were receiving two submissions a minute. This incredible response came from across industry, business and community and it demonstrates just how strongly Queenslanders feel about transitioning our state to a low-carbon future. At the Climate Action Round Table in Canberra last month—which was attended by state and territory ministers from Victoria, South Australia and the ACT as well as city council representatives from Brisbane, Darwin and Hobart—it was agreed that we would all work together to deliver low-carbon social and economic benefits to our jurisdictions. I am pleased to advise the House that, in recognition of the emerging leadership role of the Palaszczuk Queensland Labor government, the next Climate Action Round Table will be held here in Queensland.