




Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Bailey**

**MEMBER FOR YEERONGPILLY**

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Record of Proceedings, 14 February 2017

**MOTION: NORTH QUEENSLAND, ELECTRICITY SUPPLY**

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (6.05 pm): I move—

That all words after 'support' be deleted and the following words inserted:

'the importance of reliable and affordable baseload electricity in Queensland, and the pipeline of more than 1,300 direct jobs from the more than \$1.5 billion worth of new and renewable energy generation committed to North Queensland over the next 18 months under the Palaszczuk government.

Further, this House supports the COAG Energy Council's Finkel Review into the reliability and security of the National Energy Market and looks forward to the delivery of the final report to guide the most economic, affordable and secure reform of our energy system including North Queensland.

Listening to the LNP on electricity is like listening to Norman Gunston give us shaving tips. We have seen 43 per cent price increases. Those opposite had three years and a record majority and what did they deliver? Forty-three per cent electricity price increases in only three years! Did they deliver any new energy generation into the national energy market from Queensland in that three years? No, not a single bit. In fact, the only thing that happened of any note was that a coal-fired station in Collinsville closed on their watch. Having done absolutely nothing about it for three years, they come into this chamber waxing lyrical and lecturing us about what should be happening and overlooking the very key point—that we are seeing a clean energy boom in this state, including in North Queensland where we are seeing more than \$2 billion worth of investment committed with more to come and 1,300 direct jobs coming in the next 12 to 18 months in the clean energy sector in North Queensland with more to come.

I will name those projects for members. There will be a solar farm at Clare built by Sun Metals. There is another one at the Upper Ross. There are two solar farms going into Collinsville. Kidston is financially closed. There is one going in at Lakeland. There is a wind farm going in at Mount Emerald. There is a clean energy generation boom happening and jobs galore for Far North Queensland under the Palaszczuk government in only two years. In only two years we have done this. Those opposite could have done this. The LNP could have done this while in government, but what did it do? It said, 'No, we don't want the investment. We don't want the jobs. We'd rather see the unemployment rate go up to the highest level in 11 years.' That is what it gave this state. It said, 'No, we don't want the jobs. We don't want the investment.' Those opposite could have done what we are doing yet they did not, and that is why they are on that side of the chamber and not on the government benches. That is the situation.

I want to make a couple of points about the facile contribution by the member for Burleigh. I have in front of me the Finkel preliminary report. In relation to integrating renewable energy into our electricity grid, Australia's Chief Scientist states—

Electricity security issues arising from an increase in variable renewable electricity ... generation can be addressed using best practices and lessons learnt from other markets in the world.

In other words, Australia is behind the eight ball on this issue. We are not best practice under the Turnbull government and we were not best practice under the Abbott government either. The Finkel preliminary report states further at page 49—

Several countries as well as the Nordic market, the EU, Texas and New Zealand have demonstrated that it is possible to manage the challenge of integrating a rising share of VRE generation into their electricity networks.

Let us not hear this ridiculous, 'When the wind doesn't blow and the sun doesn't shine'; the technology is there for full integration. We have to get to best practice. We are behind the eight ball. The federal government and the state LNP should be focusing on the technical solutions that are all there for the transition to clean energy whilst stabilising prices. Yet we have these silly debates. They are so far behind what is going on in the energy market. It is embarrassing.