



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Bailey**


**MEMBER FOR YEERONGPILLY**

---

Record of Proceedings, 2 March 2017

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Renewable Energy**

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (9.49 am): The Palaszczuk government is delivering on its commitment to create renewable energy, regional jobs, boost investment and act on climate change. As the Premier mentioned, there is a renewable energy boom underway in Queensland as we speak. Last week I was invited by proponents Genex to the site of the Kidston solar farm, also attended by Ivor Frischknecht from the Australian Renewable Energy Agency and the member for Mount Isa whose electorate it is in.

What made this trip so significant was the fact that construction was starting on this \$126 million revival of a former gold mine site as part of the energy transition that is happening in Queensland. We broke ground on the first large-scale solar farm under the Palaszczuk government's Solar 150 program. One hundred new North Queensland jobs are being created. More than half a million solar PV panels are being installed which, when complete, will produce 50 megawatts of renewable energy to pump into North Queensland's electricity grid. That is the equivalent of powering 26,500 homes.

Today the Premier announced three more large-scale solar farms, worth a combined total of \$199 million, in the Whitsundays, Oakey and Longreach. The proponents will sign formal deeds of agreement under the Palaszczuk government's Solar 150 program, bringing more viability to these major renewable generators in the regions. This is a significant milestone for all three projects. By securing long-term revenue certainty for each project, proponents can now confirm investor funding and begin construction.

I thank Edify and Canadian Solar, who are major players in the international renewable industry, for their confidence in investing in Queensland. Canadian Solar's General Manager, Daniel Ruoss, said—

We've chosen Queensland for our investment because of its world-class resources, great infrastructure and a forward looking government. Queensland is truly the Sunshine State.

I endorse the statements made earlier by the Premier and Minister Lynham welcoming the Coordinator-General's approval of the EIS for the proposed Coopers Gap Wind Farm. It is the Palaszczuk government that has kick-started the renewable energy industry in Queensland after three years of inaction and an anti-renewables agenda by the previous government. We are taking a planned and measured approach as we transition to a 50 per cent renewable energy target by 2030 in 13 years time. More than one gigawatt of privately funded renewable energy projects are currently in the works delivering more than \$2 billion of new investment to Queensland and more than 1,900 direct jobs, mostly in our regions. What an exciting day it is today for clean energy and for regional jobs in Queensland and I can assure members that there is a lot more to come.