



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Bailey**


**MEMBER FOR YEERONGPILLY**

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## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**

### **Energy Industry**

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (10.11 am): I rise to speak about the critical state of the national energy policy. What we have seen is the Turnbull government fail to provide the policy coherence and certainty that Australia needs. Energy sectors around the globe are undergoing transformational change. The way that energy is produced, transported, managed and used will never go back to the old ways. Australia is well placed to benefit from this transition but, unlike other countries, we do not yet have a national transition plan.

We need ministers to work together on energy policy solutions, but all we have seen is too much politics from the federal government. We have seen the federal government tax state governments in a game of big politics but not big policy. In Queensland we have been criticised for having a state based renewable energy target. The Turnbull government still does not have a renewable energy target policy beyond 2020—no credible pathway to meet its international climate change action obligations under the Paris agreement. It is in this context of a lack of national action that the states are setting their own policies. This is a rational response to the threat of climate change to our economies and it also seeks to maximise the jobs and investment the renewable energy economy can deliver for Queensland.

However, we know that without coordinated national action the energy sector will continue to have investment uncertainty and suboptimal outcomes. We will fail to meet international obligations at the expense of our environment, at the expense of our Great Barrier Reef and at the expense of our economy. Yet the federal government continues to provide one-off, one-out proposals, not comprehensive policy or energy policies—like an expensive new coal-fired power station costing upwards of \$4 billion that will lock in high emissions for more than 30 years. As for the feasibility study for the Snowy River hydro 2.0 project, it was announced to be \$2 billion but is very likely to be much higher—without an explanation of who is going to pay for it and a time frame for construction of between five and 10 years according to energy experts.

The Independent Review into the Future Security of the National Electricity Market, led by Dr Alan Finkel, is critical to delivering national reform for the transition and to maintain energy security, reliability and affordability. Again, before it barely began, the federal government tried to stop it looking at an emissions intensity scheme. We need the federal government and the state LNP to heed industry calls and back the Finkel process, instead of trying to pre-empt the outcome. If the federal government has billions of dollars to spend on energy solutions, it should be bringing this funding to the COAG Energy Council. It should allow these policy initiatives which affect us all to be considered by all ministers, taking into account the Finkel review recommendations.

Australia is an energy-rich nation, but if we are to harness the opportunities from that natural endowment then all governments need to work as one, led by the national government, through the COAG processes. This is a time for cohesion and cooperation, not partisan politics in this national debate. Our economic future depends on that.