




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR YEERONGPILLY

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Solar Energy; Tow Truck Industry

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (2.33 pm): I have great news for Queensland.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr BAILEY: Finally the opposition is excited about solar! Today Queensland, the sunshine state, becomes Queensland, the solar state. New figures show that Queensland solar rooftops have now surged past the Gladstone Power Station as Queensland's largest power station. Latest Energy Queensland figures show that there are now more than 438,000 residential solar rooftops and 1,706 megawatts of solar PV power in Queensland. We are well on our way to meeting our target of one million solar rooftops, or 3,000 megawatts of solar power, by 2020.

Queensland has the highest installed capacity of solar rooftops in Australia by a large margin. We also have one of the highest solar penetration rates per capita anywhere in the world. We are home to a mix of residential and large-scale commercial and industrial solar installations supplying Queensland's electricity grids and homes and businesses with cheap, clean energy. We remain committed to increasing renewable energy to 50 per cent by 2030 and adopting a planned and measured approach to maintain affordability, reliability and security of supply.

Our response to the independent Renewable Energy Expert Panel final report will be released soon. We came to government with a clear commitment to increase the uptake of renewable energy after a renewable energy blackout under the LNP when it lost 1,300 renewable energy jobs in only three years. In just two years the Palaszczuk government has kickstarted a brand-new large-scale renewable energy industry boom in Queensland: 16 projects and more than a gigawatt of power committed, delivering around 2,000 direct new jobs and \$2.1 billion in investment. There are latte sippers as far as the eye can see! They are part of a broader pipeline of 4,200 megawatts of solar, wind, biomass, hydro and geothermal projects in our state. By and large these projects are in regional Queensland. The 25 megawatt Barcardine Solar Farm is currently commissioned and feeding 15 megawatts into the grid as we speak. In North Queensland a raft of new, clean energy power stations are coming on line at Kidston, Lakeland, Clare, Collinsville—there are quite a few at Collinsville—and, of course, at Mount Emerald. There are many more—and I know those on the Darling Downs will be very pleased to hear this—in Central and Western Queensland; there is a range of them there. I table a map showing the extent of these projects all over Queensland. I also table the solar tracker with details of the largest power station in Queensland.

Tabled paper: Map titled 'Queensland Renewable Project Pipeline, May 2017' [\[766\]](#).

Tabled paper: Document by Department of Energy and Water Supply titled 'Solar Tracker' [\[767\]](#).

Each of these large-scale projects delivers local jobs right across our state—jobs in design, jobs in permitting, jobs in construction and jobs in maintenance. The Palaszczuk government’s commitment to the renewable energy industry is creating new jobs and diversifying the state’s economy and, importantly, putting downward pressure on wholesale prices by increasing generation. We are committed to an energy mix that, along with traditional thermal generation, will ensure affordability, security and sustainability for Queenslanders.

I wish to address a question that was directed to the Premier yesterday by the member for Glass House. The matter raised appears to refer to the recovery of a stranded vehicle on a beach and, as such, is beyond the scope of current legislation. I invite the constituent of the member for Glass House to contact the towing hotline on 1800681636 or to make a submission to towing.industry.investigation@tmr.qld.gov.au. This is another area that the Palaszczuk government is reforming, which was ignored for three years by Tim Nicholls and Campbell Newman.