




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR YEERONGPILLY

Record of Proceedings, 13 June 2017

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Renewable Energy

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (10.19 am): Less than two weeks ago, on 1 June, the Chief Scientist of this nation and the reviewer of the national electricity market said to a Senate estimates committee that the cost of bringing on new coal generation in this country per megawatt hour is projected to be substantially higher than the cost of bringing on wind and solar.

That was a poignant moment in this nation's history in terms of our economy and in terms of energy. We are seeing a switch-over in the least cost energy alternative. That is now clearly renewable energy. It is the most cost-effective mode. This is acknowledged in the Finkel report—a report initiated by the federal Turnbull government. It is in that context that the Palaszczuk government has been talking about this for quite some time. It is something that is not acknowledged by the opposition. It is not acknowledged by the Leader of the Opposition because he is in the past when it comes to energy policy.

Let us look at the extraordinary performance by the Leader of the Opposition on Steve Austin's radio program yesterday. He got very basic facts on energy wrong. In future he probably should defer to the member for Burleigh, who I would not have thought would be better but maybe he is. The Leader of the Opposition said, 'We have a small hydro further north.' One? We actually have three: Barron Gorge, Kareeya and Koombooloomba. So much for his knowledge of North Queensland! I guess the lattes in Ascot are just too tempting for him to get up and have a look at our energy assets. He also described power stations as 'ultracritical'. That might be his approach to policy. They are actually supercritical; they are not 'ultracritical'. The Leader of the Opposition also quoted data on the wholesale price that was months old, trying to proffer it as evidence. He questioned our action to back in consumers and reduce the price from 7.1 to 3.3 when he said, 'People have to ask how sensible is that.'

We are going to back in electricity consumers because he did not do it for three years. Under the member for Clayfield as treasurer we saw price increases of 43 per cent—22 per cent in one year. We will continue to make sure we back the least cost energy infrastructure—that is, solar and wind. We are seeing a boom in renewable energy in this state under this government. We will not see capacity shut, as we did under the watch of the member for Clayfield, who mothballed Swanbank and shut Collinsville Power Station. Queenslanders will get solid energy policy from us.

(Time expired)