




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR YEERONGPILLY

Record of Proceedings, 15 June 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) (10.03 am): Despite the toxic mess the divided Turnbull government has made and continues to make of national energy policy, the Palaszczuk government is powering ahead in Queensland. We came to government with a clear commitment to increase the uptake of renewable energy after a renewable energy blackout under the LNP when we lost 1,300 renewable energy jobs under the previous government.

In just 18 months under the Palaszczuk government, Queensland is seeing a renewable energy boom with an unprecedented level of renewable energy investment in our state. Some 17—let me say that again: 17—large-scale renewable energy projects are committed for Queensland and have either commenced construction, finished construction or are finalising commercial arrangements. I table a very busy map of Queensland showing the extent of those investments throughout our state.

Tabled paper: Map of Queensland titled Queensland Renewable Project Pipeline, May 2017 [\[987\]](#).

Ms Palaszczuk: Regional Queensland.

Mr BAILEY: Exactly, Premier; most of them in regional Queensland. The Palaszczuk government understands and agrees with Dr Alan Finkel that renewable energy is a lot cheaper—not a little but much cheaper—to construct now than new coal-fired generation. These projects will bring \$2.2 billion worth of investment to Queensland supporting 2,200 jobs and reduce carbon emissions by 2.8 million tonnes a year. When complete, these projects will deliver almost 1,200 megawatts of clean power—more than doubling Queensland's current renewable energy supply. This will provide the annual energy needs for more than half a million Queenslanders.

Recently we announced our Powering North Queensland plan—a road map to unlock another wave of energy projects to power the North Queensland economy and support 5,000 jobs. This includes a \$150 million investment to deliver a bulk transmission line to unlock around 2,000 megawatts of wind, pumped hydro and solar projects in North Queensland, creating a North Queensland clean energy hub. We have also committed \$236 million to upgrade the Burdekin Falls Dam to fund a hydropower station to make four hydropower stations in North Queensland, not one little one as the member for Clayfield alleged the other day—one little one; how embarrassing—and investment in water supply and sustainable energy generation in North Queensland.

In line with the recommendation of the renewable energy target expert panel final report, the Palaszczuk government will unleash a reverse auction of up to 400 megawatts of renewable energy capacity in the second half of this year. We are bringing forward renewable technology solutions not being delivered by the market to support long-term system security, which includes a dispatchable renewable generation of 100 megawatts of battery storage in our state for the first time. Recently our solar rooftops combined surpassed the Gladstone Power Station and are now effectively Queensland's largest power station, and continuing to grow.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to our 50 per cent target by 2030 on renewable energy—a target comparable to the effective 42 per cent target under the clean energy target recommended by Dr Finkel in his review of the national energy market. Our commitment is to establishing a new, large-scale renewable energy industry in our state creating jobs, diversifying our economy and putting downward pressure on electricity prices. The key question is: will the opposition leader commit to these thousands of clean energy jobs for Queenslanders, particularly in North Queensland, or will he cut them like he cut them last time with 14,000 sackings and 1,300 renewable energy jobs lost? Queensland does not need more LNP cuts; it needs jobs, it needs building, it needs investment, and that is what it is getting with the Palaszczuk government.