




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR YEERONGPILLY

Record of Proceedings, 11 October 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) (2.20 pm): A clean energy boom is underway in Queensland under the Palaszczuk government, and that includes our Renewables 400 program—a key initiative of the \$1.1 billion Powering Queensland Plan. The EOI for the 400-megawatt large-scale renewable energy reverse auction, with 100 megawatts of storage, recently closed on 25 September. We have received strong interest and it is clear investors are excited about the renewable energy boom in Queensland. Renewable energy—now the cheapest form of new energy infrastructure—and storage technology will play an important role in our transition to a lower carbon future, addressing climate change, establishing this new industry in Queensland and is ensuring new investment flow into the Queensland economy, which is good for jobs and better for bills.

The proposals received include renewable energy projects with a wide range of technologies and energy storage projects that are either stand alone or integrated with a renewable energy project. These opportunities are across Queensland—mostly in regional Queensland, creating thousands of jobs. Those who oppose renewables oppose jobs in regional Queensland. The renewable energy project proposals have a combined capacity of over 9,000 megawatts. This is greater than the current 8,200 megawatts generated by our current coal-fired power stations and is further proof that Queensland does not need a ninth coal-fired power station under the LNP, which would see the return of double-digit price increases just like the Newman government.

The mix of clean energy proposals in the EIO is 2,200 megawatts of wind energy, more than 6,400 megawatts of solar and around 500 megawatts of other renewable energy technologies such as biomass. A number of these projects could be a first in Queensland, including concentrated solar thermal technology—the technology which powers Las Vegas past midnight. The integration of storage with renewable to enable dispatchable renewable energies is the future. In addition to supporting the deployment of renewable energy, storage technologies provide a range of services that will help to enhance the security and the reliability of Queensland's electricity power grid—already the most robust in our nation.

By encouraging investment in Queensland we are also diversifying energy generation and bolstering our future energy security. The Palaszczuk government is proud of our renewable energy boom in our state after the renewable energy blackout under the LNP and the member for Clayfield. A real leader and a real government has a real energy policy. In contrast, Queensland has an energy illiterate in the opposition leader, who, in his speech in parliament yesterday, ignored an entire industry—the gas industry—when he suggested that 96 per cent of Queensland's energy generation was coal. The mix of course is seven per cent renewables, including all our domestic solar PV, and it is in fact 12 per cent gas—not zero but 12 per cent. No wonder electricity prices surged 43 per cent under the opposition leader as treasurer—an energy illiterate when, to this day, he lacks basic facts about Queensland's energy industry.