



Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR YEERONGPILLY

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MOTION

Renewable Energy Target

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (6.26 pm): Who shut down the last coal-fired power station in Queensland? That lot opposite. The opposition shut down two units at Tarong and Swanbank E and they let Collinsville close. Then they come in here trying to scare people that there will be closures. There is no proposal to shut any power station in Queensland. The only policy is to add more power. That is what we stand for: more power.

We also stand for regional jobs. Where are these jobs in the clean energy boom under the Palaszczuk government? It is interesting to note that the members for Burdekin, Gregory and Whitsunday are not speaking in this debate, because there are four solar farms in each of their electorates, creating 631 jobs in the Whitsunday electorate, 639 jobs in the Burdekin electorate and 530 jobs in the Gregory electorate. Those members are opposed to that many jobs in their own electorates. Yet they lecture us about ideology. They are an absolute joke!

We are also seeing a solar farm in the Nanango electorate. There will be 200 jobs at the Coopers Gap Wind Farm. The member for Nanango opposes regional jobs in her own electorate—just like the member for Burdekin, just like the member for Whitsunday, and just like the member for Gregory. I will be making sure that the people of the Burdekin and Whitsunday electorates know how their members are going to vote in this motion. They are opposed to jobs in their own electorate. How stupid is that?

If this was the 1920s the opposition would be saying, 'Don't worry about the new motorised vehicles. We just need more stage coaches.' We should still be using faxes, according to the LNP. The fact is that renewables are coming. There are advantages. They are now the cheapest form of new energy infrastructure by a long way. That is not just my view; that is the view of the Chief Scientist of this country. That is the view of the federal Treasurer of the party of those opposite who says that new cheap coal generation is a myth. Scott Morrison says it would take seven years to turn up. The LNP do not have an energy policy.

In terms of security, we have the most secure grid in the whole country. That is the view of the Australian Energy Market Operator, who says there is no material lack of supply in Queensland for 10 years. I know that the members of the opposition do not pay attention to too much, but in the two heatwaves it was Queensland power that propped up New South Wales. There would have been widespread load shedding in the Prime Minister's own state without Queensland power pouring across the border. We have no issues of security. We believe in adding to the grid. We are adding an extra 570 megawatts before this summer by bringing back Swanbank E, by bringing up more megawatts at Wivenhoe and by bringing on the Clare Solar Farm and other solar farms.

It is ridiculous for the opposition to be opposing hundreds and hundreds of jobs in Burdekin, Whitsunday or Gregory. I say good luck fending off One Nation and Labor if they are opposing regional jobs in their own patch. Under our policies we are seeing 2,000-plus jobs come with the clean energy boom in this state. There is 1,900 megawatts of power coming into the pipeline. We are not content with being the most secure grid in Australia; we want to keep getting better, keep expanding.

The Climate Change Authority study is old data. It has been superseded by the expert panel's work which shows it will be cost neutral to move to renewables by 2030 because of the plunging cost of solar, wind and batteries. Those opposite have to read more widely than the *Courier-Mail* and the *Australian* if they want to develop decent energy policy.

We are seeing a responsible approach by the Palaszczuk government. We will see renewable energy double in the next 18 months to 16 per cent because it is the cheapest form of power. If those opposite want a decent policy they should go and talk to the federal Treasurer. He knows cheap coal-fired power is a myth and it takes seven years to turn up.