




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR YEERONGPILLY

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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) (2.27 pm): Queensland's diverse power grid of gas-fired, solar, coal-fired, hydro and biomass is expanding due to our unprecedented renewable energy boom. That is because this government had the vision and the right policy settings to grow Queensland's renewable energy sector to create regional jobs to put downward pressure on prices and act on climate change. Before we were elected there was a renewable energy blackout in Queensland under the previous LNP government. Not one large-scale renewable energy project was built under the anti-renewable LNP and 1,300 renewable energy jobs were lost.

Today a whole new industry is underway in Queensland. There are 22 renewable energy projects confirmed, totalling 1,900 megawatts of powers, with 18 under construction as I speak. That is \$3.6 billion in new Queensland investment and over 2,900 construction jobs mainly in regional Queensland. This represents an unprecedented level of investment in the state and has established Queensland as the nation's new renewable energy investment leader, with 47 per cent of the nation's new energy infrastructure coming into our state due to it being much cheaper to build than a new coal-fired power station. It is no wonder our unemployment rate has a five in front of it now when we look at the clean energy boom going on with jobs.

When these projects come online in the next couple of years, renewables will amount to 17 per cent of Queensland's electricity generation output, which is more than double the level in 2015 while still maintaining our status as the most secure and robust power grid in Australia. In July this year Queensland's newest solar project, the 15-megawatt Sunshine Coast Solar Farm at Valdora, commenced operations. The project is an initiative of the Sunshine Coast City Council and is projected to save ratepayers \$22 million. A number of other projects, such as the 10.8-megawatt Lakeland Solar Farm in Far North Queensland with battery storage integrated, are nearing completion and will soon start feeding electricity into the network. Beyond Lakeland the 100-megawatt Clare Solar Farm, the 50-megawatt Kidston Solar Project, the 14-megawatt Hughenden Solar Farm and the 5-megawatt Normanton Solar Farm are all expected to be online by this summer. The future prospects for Queensland's renewable energy industry remain strong, with over 8,000 megawatts of solar, wind, biomass and hydro projects under consideration.

Over the coming years we can expect more of these projects under the leadership of the Palaszczuk Labor government. As part of the Powering Queensland Plan announced in June 2017, the Palaszczuk government reaffirmed its commitment to a 50 per cent renewable energy target for Queensland by 2030. The Powering Queensland Plan includes a range of initiatives that will ensure investment in renewable energy in Queensland to support that commitment and includes facilitating the next wave of diversified renewable energy through the Renewables 400 reverse auction—in which there has been a huge level of interest—that includes 100 megawatts of energy storage; investing

\$150 million to develop strategic transmission infrastructure in a North Queensland clean energy hub; and investing \$100 million to support the development of a hydroelectric power station at the Burdekin Falls Dam.

The Palaszczuk government has a clear vision of a new renewable energy industry in Queensland. We are delivering on this vision after the lost years of the Newman government with the opposition leader as Treasurer.