




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (GREAT BARRIER REEF PROTECTION MEASURES) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (5.26 pm): I rise today to speak to the Great Barrier Reef legislation. I do so very cognisant of my obligation to the next generation. Last week three fantastic students from my wonderful local high school came to see me about the environment and climate change. Will Greaves is making a documentary about it for his media class, and he wanted to interview me about my views on climate change, the environment, what I have done as their local member and what I will do. I told them that I, and indeed everybody on this side of the House, believe in the importance of the environment and preserving it and the importance of climate change; that the Palaszczuk government has a 50 per cent clean energy target by 2030; and that we are committed to reaching that target with programs like Solar Schools—putting solar on thousands of rooftops throughout Queensland—and the household appliances program.

Importantly, thanks to programs like the solar rebate, the largest provider of power in this state is our rooftops—and that is something I am proud to shout from the rooftops. We are off to a great start when it comes to our commitment to the environment, but we have more to do. That is what I told Will and his classmates from Centenary State High School last week.

I am here today to put those words and those values into action because the climate crisis is here. It is real and we are seeing its devastating impacts each and every day right throughout Queensland. Sadly, my electorate is no different. Mount Ommaney has had two fires in the last week. Just yesterday a blaze ignited in Darra alongside the Centenary Motorway. I would like to thank the local fireys for getting the blaze under control. We do not yet know the cause of the blaze, but we do know that in this dry weather even a cigarette butt flicked onto dry grass can be enough to ignite a fire.

No-one should be under any illusion as to the critical importance of acting on environmental pressures and climate change, which is why I am proud to honour my commitment to the amazing students I met last week and the hundreds more like them in my community.