




Speech By
Hon. Leeanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

Record of Proceedings, 23 October 2019

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Climate Change

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algerster—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (10.10 am): The Palaszczuk government is committed to taking responsible action on climate change. This commitment is demonstrated by our targets of achieving 50 per cent renewable energy by 2030 and zero net emissions by 2050. This week the *Australian* published reports regarding work in relation to litigation risks associated with a change in climate. Queensland, like other jurisdictions, including the federal government, is not alone in examining all the risks presented by climate change including financial, legal and, of course, insurance. Other organisations that have been considering these risks include Suncorp, the Reserve Bank and international resources company Glencore, to name just a few.

The Department of Environment and Science has been considering how this analysis could be responsibly undertaken by government. Minter Ellison submitted a proposal to government in relation to that potential analysis. I can confirm for the House that no report exists because Minter Ellison has not been commissioned to conduct the work. The government has not paid Minter Ellison for the proposal. The documentation in question, which was mentioned as part of emails released under RTI, is a proposal to government. During the RTI process I am advised that Minter Ellison objected to the release of their proposal as it is commercial-in-confidence. It is not a report, it is not a plan, and it did not include any policy recommendations to government. As the government has not engaged Minter Ellison to conduct legal work, the proposal does not belong to the government and, I am advised, cannot be released by the government. Furthermore, the proposal has never been considered by cabinet and will not be considered by cabinet.

The Palaszczuk government will continue with the important work we have been undertaking: our 50 per cent renewable energy target by 2030; establishing a \$500 million Land Restoration Fund; investing \$12 million in QCoast 2100 to help local councils in coastal areas undertake important climate adaptation work; developing eight sector adaptation plans to help prioritise climate change adaptation activities across key sectors of the community; investing a record \$330 million to protect the Great Barrier Reef; and delivering responsible vegetation management laws. The Palaszczuk government accepts the science and is committed to responsible action on climate change.