




Speech By
Brent Mickelberg

MEMBER FOR BUDERIM

Record of Proceedings, 12 August 2020

FOREST WIND FARM DEVELOPMENT BILL

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (12.46 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to the debate on the Forest Wind Farm Development Bill 2020, a bill that seeks to provide tenure within the Toolara, Tuan and Neerdie state forests to enable a major wind farm renewable energy project to occur. I note that when complete, the project will deliver up to 1,200 megawatts of renewable energy, which would represent 12 per cent of Queensland's installed generation capacity. I also note that the project will require an estimated private capital investment of around \$2 billion, so it is a considerable investment which should justifiably be subject to scrutiny.

I note that the shadow minister, Andrew Powell, has foreshadowed that the LNP will not be opposing this bill. However, we do have concerns with respect to the process the government has undertaken, which is a familiar refrain of much that the Palaszczuk Labor government touches. In my contribution I wish to address specifically my concerns and those expressed during the committee process in relation to the market-led proposal and exclusive transaction process.

We heard yesterday from the shadow minister for state development that as a consequence of government policy in relation to the market-led proposal and exclusive transaction process, the very communities that will be directly affected by this proposal were kept in the dark while the Labor government, who supposedly govern for their interests, engaged in discussions behind closed doors with the project proponent for three years. In fact, information in relation to the project was only made public after the government had had the opportunity to make media announcements with much fanfare. It smacks of a Labor government more interested in looking after themselves than the communities they supposedly represent. It is just the latest example of the Palaszczuk Labor government treating rural and regional Queenslanders like second-class citizens.

Let's be clear. The fact that consultation with the local community did not commence until 2020 is a direct consequence of government policy, not due to an unwillingness of the proponent to engage on the issue. Although the name may have changed, the exclusive transaction process is just a continuation of Labor's failed market-led proposal framework, which resulted in 160 proposals from the private sector but delivered only one.

Queenslanders have heard lots of noise in the media and we have seen plenty of Labor ministers and members trumpeting great projects which were supposedly going to be delivered under the market-led proposal framework, but they never eventuated. I speak of projects like the Queensland Maritime Museum. The name of the market-led proposal process may have changed, but it is still the same opaque and unproductive bureaucratic nightmare. I just hope that Labor are actually able to deliver a project under the exclusive transaction process or, more to the point, that a Frecklington LNP government takes the reins in November and is able to bring some common sense and business acumen to running this state.