




Speech By

Bruce Saunders

MEMBER FOR MARYBOROUGH

Record of Proceedings, 12 August 2020

FOREST WIND FARM DEVELOPMENT BILL

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (2.14 pm): I rise in support of the Forest Wind Farm Development Bill 2020. This is a great project for Wide Bay. It is very disappointing to see the other side of the House against it because it means jobs, jobs and more jobs for the Wide Bay region, in particular for the Maryborough electorate. It was interesting to read the committee report. The member for Scenic Rim stated that I am the member for Brisbane in Maryborough. I have a chihuahua at home that has more heart and intelligence than that member. If the member had taken note, he would know I had assisted the residents in their approach to the National Wind Farm Commissioner. It is very disappointing that those opposite are playing politics. Can members imagine if they were in power. We would still be driving buggies.

Mr Powell: We are not playing politics, we are supporting it. We just like good process following.

Mr SAUNDERS: I hear the interjection from the member for Glass House. He is the man who gave us the Toogoom rock wall. A lot of people in my electorate know all about the member for Glass House. I say to the member for Glass House, those who live in glass houses should not throw stones. The Toogoom rock wall is one of the biggest disasters that people have had to put up with environmentally.

This wind farm is fantastic for the region. Not only will it create jobs during construction but also Forest Wind have had over 800 submissions from businesses that want to supply and work on the wind farm. I heard the member for Gympie saying he had been doing the work for the member for Maryborough. I would tell him to walk in my shoes because for the last five years I have been doing the work for the member for Gympie. I do not think he knows where the northern part of his electorate is.

Let us get the record straight. This is about jobs and renewables. Between Maryborough and Tiaro will be one of the biggest sustainability hubs in Queensland powered fully by renewable energy. This will create hundreds of jobs in my electorate. Did one member of the LNP talk about it? No, they did not. The mantra of those opposite is jobs, jobs, jobs, but when something like this comes along we see nothing but negativity. In my electorate they are called F Troop. Do members remember *F Troop* on TV? Those opposite are called F Troop because they cannot get anything right. Sixty-four times they called for the borders to be opened. Now it is about the wind farms. Will we see them in my electorate saying, 'We don't want the jobs. We don't want wind farms'? They cannot have both. This bill gives Forest Wind tenure for their wind farm which will create hundreds of jobs in my electorate.

I am concerned about making sure people have a roof over their head and food on the table, their children can be educated and they have health care. I am not interested in petty politics. I am not interested in the flat earth society. It is a wonder the member for Callide is not here talking about flat earth. Fair go. Those opposite really have to come into 2020. At the moment I think they are in 1921. We can drag them to 2020, get them across the line. They are a bit like the Amish community. They will be driving around in buggies. You can see them now. This is very good for jobs, jobs and more jobs in the Maryborough electorate and right across Wide Bay. How can the federal member for Wide Bay and

the member for Gympie say they do not want jobs? How can they possibly go back to their constituents and say we do not want jobs in our electorate? If we get this wind farm we will have jobs. This is fantastic for the Maryborough electorate.