




Speech By
Corrine McMillan

MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD

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FOREST WIND FARM DEVELOPMENT BILL

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (12.32 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Forest Wind Farm Development Bill 2020. The introduction of the bill will facilitate tenure for the project in a manner which provides the long-term certainty and security sought by project investors and is necessary to allow the negotiation of commercial arrangements to progress. The primary objective of the bill is to provide a tenure pathway and legal framework for the establishment of a privately financed and funded large-scale wind farm generating approximately 1,200 megawatts of energy from up to 226 turbines within the exotic pine plantations of the Toolara, Tuan and Neerdie state forests.

I recently had the opportunity like you, Mr Deputy Speaker Kelly, to experience firsthand a wind farm located at Coopers Gap, which will be one of Australia's largest wind farms upon completion later this year. It has a total generation capacity of 453 megawatts annually and will produce 1.5 million megawatt hours of energy. The wind farm consists of 115 turbines extending across a series of ridge lines within the site. The wind turbines are approximately 180 metres in height from the tower base to the top of the blade. The tower will be approximately 113 metres high and the blades approximately 67 metres in length, with a rotor diameter of 137 metres. That is truly amazing.

This bill is a positive step towards the realisation of yet another large-scale, renewable energy, job-creating project—a project that will provide local and traditional owner employment and business opportunities, sustainable economic development, the potential reduction of electricity prices, increased safety and fire hazard response capability, and the efficient use of state owned land. Notably, the bill complements the state's existing legislative requirements and processes, including those relating to environmental matters and development approval, ensuring the rights in relation to such legislation and processes are not affected.

The Palaszczuk Labor government has already started delivering Queensland's COVID-19 recovery plan by creating more Queensland jobs in more industries, like the wind farm industry, to futureproof our state. Whilst the LNP continue to deliberate the role of renewable energy and its contribution to the Queensland economy, only the Palaszczuk Labor government is supporting Queensland industries and business and is committed to delivering widescale renewable energy and job-creating projects. I commend the bill to the House.