



Speech By  
**Leanne Linard**


**MEMBER FOR NUDGE**

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Record of Proceedings, 9 September 2020

**MOTION**

**Energy Generation**

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (5.44 pm): I rise to speak to the member for Hill's motion. I would say to the member for Hill that there is much in this motion I can agree with. Our Queensland resources sector, worth \$34.3 billion, and the almost 73,000 people who work within it, have a right to be acknowledged and to be proud of the contribution they make to the Queensland economy, and they work hard, many in challenging physical environments.

My uncle has spent almost his entire working life as a diesel fitter in the industry and, similarly, my brother-in-law has been in the mining industry since retiring from military service. I have had the opportunity to tour Mount Isa mine a number of times and to go to the coalface at Moranbah North mine. They work hard and they are proud of the contribution they make and the way they provide for their families. While I give them a shout-out, I do so also to the many FIFO workers who live in my community, a convenient home base for them, with the airport only seven minutes down the road.

I certainly support the member's call that this House commits to providing Queenslanders with the cheapest electricity possible. Our government made that commitment long ago and has been delivering on that commitment ever since. What I cannot support in this motion is the member for Hill's assertion that this can only happen—or should happen—by ceasing investment in renewable energy. People across my electorate believe deeply in renewable energy. It is one of the most often raised issues, from school students to retirees. Whether driven by the desire to see investment in the sector to put downward pressure on electricity prices or the significant environmental benefits it brings, Queenslanders want to see renewable energy harnessed.

Our renewable energy revolution is powering ahead in Queensland, reducing carbon emissions and driving down power prices. Our young fleet of coal-fired power stations is complementing the rollout of renewable energy projects which are creating jobs and lowering power prices. Over the past five years under Labor, 41 large-scale renewable energy projects have launched, representing around \$7.8 billion in investment and about 6,500 jobs in construction. Contrast this with those opposite, who oversaw the development of no large-scale renewable projects while they were in charge. Queensland now has more than 7,900 megawatts of renewable energy generation capacity, either operational or committed, the equivalent of taking more than two million cars off the road, and Queenslanders are on board. One in every three Queensland homes has rooftop solar. Just last month we surpassed more than 600,000 household rooftop solar systems, almost 7,000 of which are located across rooftops in my electorate of Nudgee. Queenslanders see the benefit of these systems on their bills, saving up to \$1,000 a year on their electricity accounts.

Over the past five years, the Palaszczuk government has nurtured a fledgling renewable energy sector to its current firm base of almost 20 per cent of our generation, up from just seven per cent when the LNP were last in charge. From this base, Queensland's renewable revolution can now launch into its next 10-year phase of growth, fuelled by this government's commitment to 50 per cent renewables by 2030.

Our publicly owned generators, CleanCo, Stanwell and CS Energy are leading the way, already supporting 1,900 megawatts of renewable energy capacity. CleanCo is also being tasked to bring on an extra 1,000 megawatts of clean energy by 2025. More than 20,000 megawatts of potential large-scale projects are already in the pipeline, offering more than 28,000 potential jobs. This includes Clarke Creek Wind Farm in Central Queensland, bringing 350 jobs when construction starts next year. We also have the 162-megawatt Columboola Solar Farm to be built between Chinchilla and Miles. That is another 400 jobs. Let us not forget the 400-megawatt Neoen solar farm, also near Chinchilla, creating up to 400 jobs.

It is projects like these, which are happening all over Northern, Central and South-West Queensland, that are helping Queenslanders get jobs despite tough global economic headwinds. On top of that, it is putting downward pressure on power prices, as noted by the Queensland Competition Authority in its 2019-20 price determination. Regional Queenslanders are now in their third year of power price reductions. Queensland households have been further supported by our \$200 utility rebate and small business has received \$500 off their power bills. Over this three-year period, a typical regional small business will have saved, in total, around \$1,000 and a typical household, \$600. Let us never forget that when those opposite were in charge, power prices went up 43 per cent.

Our government has a strong record in supporting and advancing our vital resources sector, but equally, we will continue to back Queensland's renewable energy revolution.