




Speech By
Aaron Harper

MEMBER FOR THURINGOWA

Record of Proceedings, 12 October 2021

MOTION

Climate Change

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (12.14 pm): I rise to support the motion. In North Queensland we are powering on in the renewable energy space. From the Whitsundays to the Burdekin, Hughenden, Kidston, Ross River Dam in my electorate of Thuringowa and Rollingstone, we are investing in renewable energy, particularly in hydrogen. Sun Metals is leading the way. They have put over a million panels on their site. They are developing their own hydrogen unit to transfer hydrogen to their trucks to move the product to the port which is fantastic—the port being the largest port in Northern Australia.

They just signed an MOU with Ark Energy, which is investing in hydrogen. We had the minister up there. We are talking about Edify. We are talking about Imperium 3. This is the supply chain, creating thousands of jobs in the renewable energy sector which are absolutely welcomed in North Queensland. It is a shame that the federal government snubbed funding for Townsville in the hydrogen space, but the state is leading the way. We are getting on with it. We are delivering and investing millions of dollars into the energy sector. I have to ask the Leader of the Opposition: did he lock up the member for Callide? Is he in a cupboard somewhere? He is not in the House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Member for Thuringowa, convention is that we do not refer to members' absences. I ask you to withdraw.

Mr HARPER: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. We are getting on with investment in the energy sector. I say to those on the other side: step up and get with it. We have an environment to protect. We have the Great Barrier Reef to protect. Billions of dollars will be created in the tourism sector because of what we are doing in the energy sector. We are reducing emissions. Climate change is a massive issue. What is the other side doing? The Leader of the Opposition in his contribution did not talk about a target. Come and join the target that the rest of the nation and the world is talking about. You cannot keep being a climate denier. You have to be on board with the renewable energy industry.

They are not paying attention. No-one on the other side is getting up and making a decent contribution because they have given up on the renewable energy target. They do not have one—just like the Morrison government. That is why the federal member for Herbert failed the people of Townsville. He is not interested in the renewable energy that we are investing in. It is about jobs and the supply chain and exporting hydrogen to the world—something that Queensland can be incredibly proud of. It is the next industry revolution. This will create jobs—thousands of jobs—in Queensland for decades to come.