



Speech By  
**Aaron Harper**


**MEMBER FOR THURINGOWA**

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Record of Proceedings, 14 October 2021

**PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT**

**Townsville, Hydrogen Industry**

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (2.21 pm): Townsville and my electorate of Thuringowa are perfectly placed to take advantage of the growing renewables and hydrogen industry. We have more than 320 days of sunshine a year in Townsville and plenty of open space—something that makes it not just the greatest place to live, but also positions North Queensland as the perfect place to grow this industry.

In Townsville major industry players are already invested in the green hydrogen revolution. The Port of Townsville has signed a memorandum of understanding with two separate companies—Origin and Ark Energy—to export our hydrogen to the world. Recently, the member for Bundamba, the assistant minister, and the member for Mundingburra were at the signing of the MOU, but the federal member for Herbert was not. We found out in the *Townsville Bulletin* a couple of days later the disappointing news that we had been snubbed of federal funding. He needs to lift his game.

Ark Energy is part of Sun Metals which the Palaszczuk government has supported through the \$5 million Hydrogen Industry Development Fund, which is designed to kickstart hydrogen production in the north. Sun Metals has already built a massive solar farm to help power its refinery as this major global player can see the benefits of this industry. Like the Palaszczuk government, Sun Metals knows the benefits of investing in the growing renewables and hydrogen energy space.

It does not stop there. Edify Energy is also ready to progress its plans for a green hydrogen facility at the Lansdown Eco-Industrial Precinct. This is something this government is supporting, unlike the Morrison government and the federal member for Herbert, Phillip Thompson. Last month Townsville City Council approved a development application for Edify for its proposed one gigawatt green hydrogen production plant as well as battery storage at Lansdown. This presents an exciting opportunity for more jobs in our city.

In Townsville the Palaszczuk government is investing in battery storage. An eight megawatt an hour battery in Black River will soak up all the excess rooftop solar generated by North Queenslanders, feeding it back into the grid when we hit the evening high-use peak period. More energy capacity in Townsville means more local jobs, which is why we are investing in this industry.

Queensland has listened to the expert health advice and that means our community is safe and our economy is open. It allows us to continue delivering Queensland's plan for economic recovery from COVID-19. Part of that plan means investing in renewables. I want Townsville and Queensland to make the most of more jobs in more industries in green hydrogen and manufacturing. Despite what Scott Morrison's man says in North Queensland, Townsville is ready and willing to take advantage of the opportunities before us. The member for Herbert says Townsville is not ready. All he is doing is talking down jobs, talking down the opportunities and talking down the city. He is wrong. We are ready. We are invested. Our track record speaks for itself. Townsville is ready and willing and well placed to be front and centre of the industrial green revolution that is coming.