




Speech By
Corrine McMillan

MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD

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ADJOURNMENT

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Environmental Protection

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (7.15 pm): Since the October 2020 election the Palaszczuk Labor government has delivered numerous policy commitments to take action on climate change, protect our diverse landscapes and create jobs for Queenslanders. Yesterday our government voted overwhelmingly in favour of committing to net zero emissions by 2050. Unlike the federal government, our government has joined other states, territories, countries and private companies to implement policies, develop infrastructure and create jobs in Queensland that work towards this target.

Our government has: banned single-use plastic bags; rolled out almost 1.5 million solar rooftop panels at 664 schools, including Rochedale and Mansfield state high schools in the Mansfield electorate; and handed back more than 3.3 million hectares of land to traditional owners on Cape York. The Palaszczuk Labor government is delivering cheaper, cleaner energy and jobs in new industries with the \$2 billion Renewable Energy and Hydrogen Jobs Fund and delivering regional jobs and reducing carbon emissions through the \$500 million Land Restoration Fund. Our government is protecting the Great Barrier Reef and regenerating land with \$330 million to preserve our reef and boost tourism. We are also delivering Queensland's strongest ever koala protections, including \$3.7 million over four years for koala conservation initiatives.

Queensland is also about to become home to the world's largest hydrogen equipment manufacturing facility. The Palaszczuk government is partnering with leading renewable energy and hydrogen company Fortescue Future Industries to establish a green energy manufacturing centre near Gladstone. This four-hectare site will create jobs in regional Queensland. It will be up and running by early 2023, with construction starting as early as next year.

As Queensland is propelled onto the international stage to produce renewable energy, I would like to acknowledge the tireless work that our local environment groups and leaders undertake. Mackenzie Bushcare Group is led by Greg Wellard. It holds regular working bees to weed, plant new flora weed, and monitor existing and new fauna. Gertrude Petty Place Bushcare, led by Sheamus O'Connor, has been running for over 20 years to protect and rehabilitate the eastern side of Mount Gravatt Reserve. I acknowledge the great work of the Bulimba Creek catchment across the Mansfield, Bulimba and Greenslopes electorates with my esteemed colleagues the Hon. Di Farmer and Joe Kelly respectively. Finally, Michael Fox is an environmental stalwart in our community. He has worked on the restoration of Mount Gravatt Conservation Reserve for 15 years and founded the Pollinator Link initiative. The Palaszczuk government greatly appreciates the work of these groups and thanks them for their ongoing commitment to protect and preserve our environment.