




Speech By
Hon. Glenn Butcher

MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

Record of Proceedings, 15 June 2021

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Renewable Energy

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (10.09 am): I take this opportunity to pay my respects to a really good friend and good mate of mine, Duncan Pegg.

Shovels have now hit the ground on a job generating renewable energy project in North Queensland thanks to the support of the Palaszczuk government. Last week I was proud to represent the Palaszczuk government at the sod turn for yet another renewable energy project in Queensland. At the start of last century, Kidston was a hive of activity following the discovery of gold on the Copperfield River and now renewable energy projects like this are bringing jobs back to the region. More than 900 construction jobs will be created by Genex Power's Kidston Pumped Storage Hydro Project, Queensland's first pumped hydro in almost forty years. Breaking ground at Kidston is a significant milestone and one we have been working towards since 2018. It is jobs for the north, it is jobs for our regions and it is another way we can secure our energy grid to bring the manufacturing jobs of the future.

It is also another important project as our government delivers Queensland's plan for economic recovery from the global COVID-19 pandemic. The 250-megawatt project was backed by the Palaszczuk government's \$147 million investment in transmission infrastructure. Our investment will enable publicly owned Powerlink to deliver the 186-kilometre transmission line required to connect K2-Hydro to the grid in Townsville. The Kidston Pumped Storage Hydro Project and its associated transmission infrastructure is expected to be completed and feeding into the National Electricity Market by early 2025. This project is one of many examples the Palaszczuk government is setting the right economic conditions for investment in our regional economies. With the Premier also announcing a massive \$2 billion Queensland Renewable Energy and Hydrogen Jobs Fund last week, Queenslanders can expect to see more projects like K2-Hydro and more renewable energy jobs in the future.

This project also represents another step forward in Queensland's charge towards its renewable energy target. Let us be honest, when it comes to real action on renewable energy and the regional jobs that the industry creates, Queensland is again doing the heavy lifting. We have to, because there is certainly no action, no direction and no policy coming from the Federal government.