




Speech By
Lance McCallum

MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA

Record of Proceedings, 23 March 2021

MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Renewable Energy

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (2.49 pm): As has been said a few times in this place, Queensland is a renewable energy powerhouse. Our existing power stations are ready to help power the nation and our renewables continue to power the entire country. Since the Palaszczuk government was elected, renewables development has been booming. Some 44 large-scale projects have come online or are being built, injecting \$8.5 billion into the Queensland economy. This investment has created over 7,000 jobs in construction alone. Almost all of these jobs have been in regional Queensland. We boast five out of the top 10 solar suburbs in Australia, with rooftop solar being the biggest generator in the state. In fact, I am advised that North Queensland on its own is the third-highest renewable energy generator in the world. We have reached an important milestone on the way to achieving our renewable energy target, hitting 20 per cent at the end of last year. We are well on the way to achieving 50 per cent by 2030. For 30 minutes last November we even hit a high of 60 per cent of our electricity coming from renewables.

We are committed to powering ahead in the delivery of cheaper and cleaner energy and we are already getting results. Last financial year we had the lowest average power prices on the eastern seaboard. The Australian Energy Market Commission forecasts a further 14 per cent reduction in power prices in South-East Queensland over the next three years. Our renewable energy generator, CleanCo, is further boosting our levels of publicly owned clean energy, with 400 megawatts from the MacIntyre Wind Farm, which is under construction.

We certainly are not going to stop there. We are investing \$145 million to establish three renewable energy zones in North, Central and Southern Queensland. These zones received expressions of interest for 192 projects, representing over \$90 billion in potential investment and 57,000 jobs. The message is clear: people want to invest in Queensland and invest in our renewable energy potential. They want to create jobs in regional Queensland through a renewables boom. We will also deliver \$500 million through our Renewable Energy Fund, giving our publicly owned generators the chance to invest in more publicly owned renewable energy assets.

This does not all happen by accident. It is a direct result of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to delivering cheaper and cleaner energy. We built this from the ground up, as those opposite failed to deliver a single renewable energy project when in government. Over 1,300 jobs were lost in the renewable energy sector under the LNP. Its three years of inaction took this state backwards and cut off Queensland's renewable energy industry at the knees. After now seeing, under the Palaszczuk Labor government, the jobs that can be created by the renewable energy industry and the low power prices it delivers, surely those opposite would get on board. Surely they would support more renewables in Queensland. Sadly, they continue to spout their anti-renewables rhetoric or say nothing at all.

The member for Callide continues to call renewables a fantasy, even paying during the election campaign for social media ads against renewables. He continues to come into this place and undermine job-creating renewable energy projects in this state, including in his electorate, particularly in regional Queensland. The LNP is completely divided on energy and has no plan or intention of supporting the development of cleaner and cheaper energy.

We have the member for Callide—for now at least; we know that he wants to become the federal member for Flynn—attempting to run the LNP agenda on renewables, with nothing but silence from the Leader of the Opposition and the shadow minister. I am advised that the shadow minister has not even mentioned the word ‘renewable’ since he got the portfolio! In fact, the only time he has talked about energy in this House was to back in the member for Callide’s attacks on renewables. He failed to call him out. It makes us wonder who the shadow minister really is. While the LNP tries and sort out what side of history it wants to be on, the Palaszczuk government will continue to invest in renewables and deliver cheaper and cleaner energy.