




Speech By
Hon. Meaghan Scanlon

MEMBER FOR GAVEN

Record of Proceedings, 22 April 2021

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Renewable Energy

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (10.04 am): Under the Palaszczuk government Queensland has become a leader when it comes to supporting zero emissions technology, the jobs of the future and protecting our environment. It is this government that has set a target of zero net emissions by 2050 and a 50 per cent renewable energy target by 2030, and it is under this government that places like Gladstone and Townsville are becoming hubs of hydrogen.

We have built the world's longest collection of electric vehicle chargers, we have committed to new buses on our South-East Queensland network being zero emissions from 2025, and Queensland now boasts 44 large-scale renewable energy projects, including, thanks to our investment in the publicly owned renewable energy company CleanCo, one of Australia's largest solar farms. We have established the \$500 million Land Restoration Fund, with 18 projects already underway. That is 1.84 million tonnes of carbon prevented from entering and damaging our atmosphere, and of course that is on top of Queenslanders themselves taking action and leading the way with over 700,000 rooftop solar installations.

Today is world Earth Day and the US President, Joe Biden, will be hosting a summit of global leaders to discuss what more action can be taken. Today I am pleased to announce that as part of our push to drive net zero emissions I will be tasking our Climate Advisory Council to look at the outcomes and build on our climate action plan. That is leaders of Queensland industry, innovation and environment looking at how we can maximise the global shift to zero emissions. We also have an incredible opportunity as the preferred bidder for the 2032 Olympics to implement lasting zero carbon solutions to ensure that we deliver a climate positive games.

If we are to continue to build on our achievements, we cannot expect to wait for the federal government to take action. While we have seen some steps taken by Canberra, we have not yet seen the leadership the world has been crying out for. It is yet to set a net zero emissions target and the Biden administration has today also criticised its climate change policies federally as insufficient. We will not wait and be left in the dust. Queensland is in a strong position today when it comes to the environment and jobs because we are taking action and will continue to work to put Queensland in the fast lane to create the jobs of the future industries and protect our environment.