



Speech By  
**Hon. Meaghan Scanlon**


**MEMBER FOR GAVEN**

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Record of Proceedings, 12 October 2021

**MOTION**

**Climate Change**

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (11.31 am): I rise to support the motion. It was interesting hearing the Leader of the Opposition asking for a raft of things we could do. I have some ideas for the Leader of the Opposition. Maybe do not veto renewable energy projects, maybe do not oppose sensible tree clearing laws that actually help us reduce emissions and do not oppose reform on electric vehicles because, contrary to the Prime Minister's belief, it does not ruin the weekend.

When it comes to emissions in this state we are very proud of setting reduction targets. Those opposite have had multiple opportunities to set them and at every opportunity have failed to do so. We have set both a 2050 target and an interim target and we are half way to achieving our interim target. Those opposite like to talk about some of those emissions, but they do not like to talk about the details that sit underneath them. In fact, when one looks at the large-scale renewable energy projects that have come online in this state, in 2012 we had none; in 2013, 2014 and 2015 we had none.

Since our government has come to power we now have over 40 projects. That is a large reason why we have been able to drive down emissions. When one looks at the land sector emissions we did, in fact, see a spike and that spike was as a direct result of the LNP repealing vegetation management laws. They have some nerve coming into this House and talking about changes to emissions when it was their policies that led to those increases.

Whether it is renewable energy, green hydrogen, manufacturing or new economic minerals Queensland is ready to seize the opportunities that are coming. Just like states and territories across Australia our government is doing the heavy lifting to make sure Queenslanders benefit. We have set achievable targets, we have put in place a blueprint of how we aim to get to our 2030 target—which is online and I encourage the Leader of the Opposition to take a look at it if he wants to know about things we could do to try to reduce emission in this state—which is in stark contrast to those opposite.

Recently the Leader of the Opposition again sidestepped questions from the ABC about whether they do support an emissions reduction target or not. One just needs to look at some of the examples in other states. Every other state and territory has signed up as well. Rio Tinto, Shell, the Minerals Council, the National Farmers' Federation, AgForce, the livestock council and a range of big business are backing a change in federal policy. Unfortunately though, the Queensland LNP have brought this to a head in the same mentality to Canberra. We have had minds like Gerard Rennick use the Senate to accuse the Bureau of Meteorology and CSIRO of altering data to fit climate change agenda, we have had cosplay coalminer and former Gold Coast economist, Matthew Canavan, use Twitter to falsely claim that Brexit-induced food shortages in the UK are linked to their climate change ambition and George Christensen say that climate change is a conspiracy by the UN. Those opposite have some deranged ideas and this will be an interesting test to see whether they finally support climate action.