




Speech By
Patrick Weir

MEMBER FOR CONDAMINE

Record of Proceedings, 12 October 2021

MOTION

CLIMATE CHANGE

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (11.46 am): I note that, while the amended motion states that the House supports the government's commitment to net zero emissions by 2050, once again it gives no indication of how the government intends to get to that target. We just heard from the Minister for Energy. He has had many opportunities to tell the people of Queensland how we are going to get to the 50 per cent renewable energy target by 2030, but still we do not know. The last time I put that question to the minister, he informed me that we were at about 20 per cent now and we would be at 50 per cent at 2030 and the rest of it is just a void.

The public are looking to transition to a cleaner energy source. That is a given. We all know that. There is an enormous amount of money being put into that area, particularly in hydrogen. Hydrogen has a future, otherwise all that investment would not be happening. However, there is a transition period. It has to be affordable. Not one section of society should be lumbered with this load. I heard comments before about tree clearing and the farmers. It worries me a lot that rural Queensland is expected to do the heavy lifting, which it has been doing for a long time. I notice that the minister for mines is not in the chamber. He does not want to contribute to this debate because regional towns throughout Queensland rely on mining. How are we going to look after them? Having these targets is wonderful, but you need to have a path to get there and it has to be fair and equitable for all sections of society. That is the part that worries me a lot.

We heard the member for Toowoomba South talking about his visit to the solar farm near Oakey. There are a few solar projects out there. There is the Coopers Gap Wind Farm just outside Dalby. Six months or more ago, I went to Canberra to visit a wind farm that is being built at Yass. There is no doubt that all of those projects have the potential to contribute to our transition. However, we will still need some form of base load power to get there. There is no doubt that hydro will play a part in that. I am a big supporter of hydro and in North Queensland there are lots of opportunities for that.

We need a clear path laid out. At the moment we do not have that. This motion gives us a target, but it does not tell us how we are going to get there. It is supporting a pig in a bag. We have not seen it. We do not have the plan. We have asked and asked, and I will continue to ask. I will give the minister more opportunities to show us and lay out the plan.

Mr de Brenni: I will make another announcement tomorrow.

Mr WEIR: The plan will be released tomorrow? I look forward to it, Minister.