




Speech By
Patrick Weir

MEMBER FOR CONDAMINE

Record of Proceedings, 22 April 2021

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Renewable Energy

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (2.23 pm): We have heard this Palaszczuk government talk of its renewable energy target of 50 per cent by the year 2030 on many occasions. What has become abundantly clear to me since my appointment to the role of shadow energy minister is the lack of any coherent plan to achieve this goal. I have met with a large number of stakeholders in the energy generation sector—both coal-fired and gas-fired generators, solar and other renewable energy sources, energy interest groups and industry consumers whose energy requirements are huge—all of whom have raised their concerns at the lack of a plan from this government to ensure this state will have access to reliable and affordable power during the time of changing from coal or gas generated electricity to renewables and beyond.

Indications are that some of our coal-fired generators will be forced to shut down in advance of their proposed phase-out date due to an abundance of solar power being generated during the daylight hours which will render them uneconomic. If this is correct, then this state will have times where we simply will not have enough power generation to supply the state's energy requirements. We are told battery storage and even possibly hydrogen will fill this space. However, if what I am being told by the energy industry is correct, the crunch will come long before these technologies are fully operational and ready to adequately fill this glaring space.

Whilst it is possible to get some figures regarding the power generation from solar farms, rooftop solar is now one of the largest power generators in this state and obtaining accurate figures with regard to that output is difficult. We need to know how this energy mix is going to work. Simply announcing the construction of more renewable projects is not enough. It is a little more complicated than that. What is the life of coal-fired generators such as Callide B or Tarong? What is the role of gas-fired generators in this transition? Do we even have a plan, or is the minister simply going to cross his fingers and hope that the network does not crash?

New South Wales has announced its plan and, whether you agree with it or not, it is a plan and it has been made public. The Queensland public deserves some answers. Indeed, the Auditor-General stated in the latest energy report that the Audit Office will conduct an inquiry into how the state government is managing the transition. It would appear that this is the only plan that is being developed. I call on the minister to step forward and tell industry and tell the Queensland public what the transition plan is, because, as far as I can tell, it does not exist.