



Speech By
Patrick Weir

MEMBER FOR CONDAMINE

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT

Renewable Energy

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (2.50 pm): Over the course of 2021 I have asked the Minister for Energy, Mick de Brenni, many times to provide some detail on how the government intends to reach its promised target of 50 per cent renewable energy by 2030. The minister has never been able to provide an answer to this question and this has not filled me or industry with confidence. Given that we are dependent upon having a constant, affordable and reliable supply of electricity for most everything we do in our day-to-day lives—for our business, for our work, for the education of our children, for households or personal requirements—we deserve an answer. The response from the minister simply is not acceptable.

This lack of detail has caught the attention of the Auditor-General, Brendan Worrall. Audit report No. 11 regarding the Queensland owned energy generators highlighted the serious challenges facing the generating sector with assets being written down to the value of \$1.1 billion. The report stated that the Audit Office would present a report to parliament on how the government is managing the transition to renewable energy. The report, titled *Managing Queensland's transition to renewable energy*, was tabled last week, and what a damning report it is.

On 10 August 2021 at the estimates hearing the minister stated that the current renewables energy status in Queensland was over 20 per cent, with a 22 per cent target. The Audit Office report states that it is 19 per cent. To reach the 50 per cent renewable target, all projects proposed will need to be delivered on time. The report estimates that Queensland will reach about 35 per cent in 2025 with the next 15 per cent by 2030 dependent upon the progress of future projects, predominantly in the early planning stages and without financial or development approval. Using project tracking data, nine per cent of potential renewable energy generation became operational between June 2017 and 2021. Projects representing 85 per cent of potential renewable energy had no significant change of status. If this trend continues, there will not be enough renewable energy generation by 2030 to reach the target.

The report states that many proposed projects do not have finance or developmental approval. The only conceivable way this target could be reached is if coal-fired power stations were shut down. Four of the six in Queensland are owned by the government. The minister was asked on the ABC last Friday, 26 November, which power stations he will be shutting down to achieve this target. His answer was, 'No,' a response that was repeated in this House. The report recommends that the department publish a detailed public statement of how Queensland's renewable energy target is defined and measured. I and the rest of Queensland look forward to reading that report.