




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Energy and Jobs Plan

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.41 am): I want to say this loud and proud: this state is on its way to a future of clean, reliable and affordable energy. Our Energy and Jobs Plan powers good jobs and new industries, and 95 per cent of this investment and the vast bulk of 100,000 new jobs are unashamedly based in regional Queensland. According to the CSIRO and the Australian Energy Market Operator, renewable energy is the cheapest energy. In terms of output, the new pumped hydro dam near Mackay is the world's biggest and Borumba is equivalent to Snowy Hydro 2.0. Mackay's storage alone provides for half of our state's renewable storage. It answers the question of what happens when the sun does not shine and the wind does not blow. It acts like a giant battery, storing and releasing its energy by using gravity to feed water from one dam to another.

Its power will be delivered via a new supergrid, connecting \$11 billion worth of wind and solar farms already in existence or soon to come online, and there will be many more. Thanks to this plan, by 2032, 70 per cent of Queensland's entire energy needs will come from renewable sources. By 2035, it will be 80 per cent. In that year, Queensland's publicly owned power stations will no longer need to burn coal. They will instead convert to clean energy hubs using spinning turbines to provide strength to the energy system and hydrogen or gas to support renewables. It is clean, cheap, reliable and practical. We will do it gradually to ensure—

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Members opposite do not like it. We will have some legislation next week that they can vote on. Queenslanders will soon know where they stand when we bring on that legislation.

Workers have a jobs guarantee. It provides for retraining in the new industries that will grow as a result of our Energy and Jobs Plan. As a proud resources state, this plan unleashes demand for a new wave of critical and rare earth minerals used in batteries and the like. Our commitment to CopperString opens up more of our state to these riches and it once again brings manufacturing back to our regions. None of this would be possible if the people of this state had not voted to keep our energy assets in our own hands. As economist Professor John Quiggin is quoted as saying—

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I will look at the member for Clayfield right now.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members.

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Clayfield, I have just called the House to order. You are warned under the standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: As economist Professor John Quiggin is quoted as saying, because Queensland retained public ownership of its coal plants, it was able to plot an orderly transition in a way other states could not. The Chamber of Commerce & Industry said the plan 'will support our businesses' and communities' viability'. The *Courier-Mail* said the energy plan is a 'welcome example of vision'.

The Queenslanders of 1922 could never have imagined the world in which we live in 2022. However, our Energy and Jobs Plan charts a course that sets up this state for decades to come. It takes action—real action—on climate change, which is already causing this state more frequent and increasingly ferocious natural disasters. By 2035, it will rid the equivalent of 109 million tonnes of carbon dioxide just from the electricity grid. That is the best news the Great Barrier Reef has had in years. Future generations will rightly look back at us and judge us on what we did to address these fundamental issues. With this plan, we can finally look them in the face and say that it started here; it started now.

Energy bodies, conservationists, community groups, the resources sector and unions have welcomed the Energy and Jobs Plan. The Clean Energy Council said it is a transformational plan that will set up Queensland to be a world leader on clean energy. The Australian Energy Council calls it a significant reform. The Solar Citizens say it is a significant step that will help unlock abundant, cheap, renewable energy to bring down power bills. The Queensland Conservation Council calls it a great plan to leave behind uncertainty and unlock a pathway to renewable energy.

The WWF says it is a once-in-a-century investment for a global renewable energy superpower and greater business certainty to drive down emissions and the cost of living and to give the reef the best chance. The Climate Council calls it a great leap forward in delivering clean energy, thousands of jobs and multimillion dollar economic opportunities.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my left, I am hearing a continual running commentary on the ministerial statement which some things are unrelated to. I would ask you to cease your interjections so we can hear the member on her feet.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The Australian Conservation Foundation has called on the opposition leader to back the plan for emissions reduction, energy security and investment certainty. The Queensland Resources Council supports the transition to a lower emissions future and the vision to be an energy superpower. The Petroleum Production & Exploration Association says the plan understands how to secure economic benefits and minimise disruption on the path to net zero. The Electrical Trades Union says the plan will be a model in the move to cleaner energy while looking after energy workers and communities. They say their members in coal-fired power stations know that the industry is changing and that the Energy Workers' charter is the security they need. The Queensland Community Alliance says the plan is the biggest thing any government in Australia has done for a generation. They say it combines climate action and economic development. I think that sums up the plan very well.