




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

Record of Proceedings, 17 March 2022

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Renewable Energy

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (10.10 am): As I have said many times in this House, Queensland has powered Australia's economic recovery from COVID-19. In a time of radical uncertainty, our state was a beacon of confidence and stability. Just as we have powered the recent economic recovery, our state has long powered the nation thanks to our publicly owned energy assets. By keeping public assets in public hands, our government has powered Queenslanders with the confidence that comes from a reliable supply of affordable energy. It has been true of our coal; it is true of our gas. For generations to come, it will be true of our abundant renewable energy resources.

That is why I am proud to support the Premier in her announcement that our publicly owned transmission company—Powerlink—is ready to start work connecting one of Australia's biggest wind farms to the grid. This project will put even more renewable power in the hands of Queenslanders. The MacIntyre Wind Farm precinct will consist of two wind farms. The 102-megawatt Karara Wind Farm will be built, owned and operated by our renewable generator CleanCo. CleanCo has signed a power offtake agreement for an additional 400 megawatts from Acciona's neighbouring MacIntyre Wind Farm.

The agreement with Powerlink will unlock \$2 billion worth of renewable energy investment in Queensland. It will support 400 wind farm construction jobs and another 220 jobs building Powerlink's transmission lines. Beyond the combined power generation of those two wind farms, Powerlink's connection will offer up to 500 megawatts of additional capacity for future projects. The precinct is in an area of high and consistent wind, with a total of 180 turbines to be built across both wind farms. The MacIntyre Wind Farm precinct will generate enough energy to power 700,000 homes.

It is only possible because Queenslanders own our own power companies—companies like CleanCo and Powerlink. While other states have privatised their electricity assets, our government has kept Queensland's power in public hands. Public ownership means that Queensland has power over our energy policy. That is the envy of every other state and territory. Public ownership has provided a foundation of confidence and stability for Queenslanders. On that foundation we are building a sustainable, renewable powerhouse in Queensland that will supercharge investment and economic growth for years to come.

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members may hear some activity outside. It is great to see that the celebrations for St Patrick's Day have started early. It is really pleasing to see. Speaking of celebrations, I wish the Minister for Resources a very happy birthday.

Mr Stewart: Twenty-six. I just look a lot older. It's been a hard life!

Mr SPEAKER: You do realise it is an offence to mislead parliament, Minister!