



Speech By  
**Joan Pease**


**MEMBER FOR LYTTON**

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**MOTION**

**Revocation and Dedication of Protected Areas and State Forest Areas (Cognate Debate)**

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (11.55 am): I rise to speak in support of the revocation motion before the House today. As we know, we are in unprecedented times. Climate change is causing real impact and now is the time for action. The action we take today supports the state's effort to build a greener and brighter future for Queensland. The Queensland Labor government has just announced the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan, which is a \$62 billion investment into the state's energy system through to 2035. I was really thrilled to hear the member for Bonney speak in support of the opportunities that the plan brings to Queensland and also to hear of great support from other conservation organisations such as the World Wildlife Fund and similar.

The Energy and Jobs Plan puts new technologies and public interest at the forefront of decision-making, setting targets for Queensland to reach 70 per cent renewable energy by 2032 and 80 per cent by 2035. Queensland is on the way to developing the SuperGrid, a contemporary energy system consisting of new foundational pumped hydro energy storage assets, new backbone transmission, more renewables within the Queensland renewable energy zone regions, more batteries and low emission to zero emission gas.

The infrastructure associated with the SuperGrid will enable us to reliably generate, store and transport cleaner electricity across the state with more energy independence. We are introducing a range of measures to put downward pressure on power prices for communities, drive savings on electricity bills and help businesses decarbonise with access to clean energy technologies. I have seen this across my own electorate as many people have told me that they are thrilled that we have kept our energy assets in government hands and many local community groups and clubs are putting solar panels on their roofs.

The Energy and Jobs Plan is a plan for the environment and will reduce the state's energy emissions by 2035. The proposal before the House today is one step among the broader action that is being led by this Labor government towards addressing climate change. It is really great to be part of a government that is ahead of the game. We are nation leaders.

The site at Borumba Dam has been identified as one of the best potential sites in Queensland for long-duration pumped hydro, as set out in the Queensland hydro study conducted in 2017. The study used a multicriteria analysis decision-making tool to determine the best possible size for pumped hydro across the state. In its simplest form, a pumped hydro scheme needs a source of water and two reservoirs separated by a change in elevation, known as the head. A larger head will generally provide for lower cost electricity generation and storage on a per unit basis as the volume of water required per megawatt hour is lower. Another important requirement is for the tunnel or pipeline connecting the upper and lower reservoirs to be short and steep for a given head difference. Geotechnical investigations in

the preliminary work phases of large infrastructure projects are paramount to obtaining critical information on the physical properties of soils for earthworks and foundations, especially large reservoirs and tunnel structures associated with pumped hydro schemes.

The proposed revocation would facilitate investigations into the best way forward to deliver the Borumba pumped hydro project—a project that promises to generate up to two gigawatts of power, with enough storage to provide electricity for up to 24 hours at this output, capable of supporting up to two million homes, which is really amazing. The footprint associated with geotechnical drilling and exploration is very small and localised, so the proposal is expected to have negligible impact upon the values of the Conondale National Park. The areas are proposed to be returned to national park status following an outcome from the investigations. As outlined by my colleague the member for Springwood, once the investigations are done the areas will be returned with no indication that anything has taken place—not even a footprint. The proponent would be required to conduct detailed environmental and cultural heritage assessments for the works prior to making an application for authority to get onto the site, minimising impacts to the conservation and cultural values of the area.

Pumped hydro projects are large, complex projects with long construction and operational time frames, typically following a staged assessment process that informs project parameters to achieve good decision-making and functionality. Each program of this nature is site-specific and requires a systematic approach to demonstrating rigour and to consider all of the options on the table. I am really thrilled that we are able to provide an opportunity to do some investigative work to make sure that the pumped hydro goes ahead, that we can deliver cleaner, greener power to Queensland. I know that people in the bayside are particularly enthusiastic about the Energy and Jobs Plan. I have spoken with many of them. They are really excited that we as a government have begun this project. I commend the motion to the House.