




Speech By
Julianne Gilbert

MEMBER FOR MACKAY

Record of Proceedings, 10 November 2022

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT

Renewable Energy

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (2.16 pm): On *Insiders* a fortnight ago Katharine Murphy from the *Guardian* said—

It is like the industrial revolution: if you are not in it, it will pass you by.

She was referring to renewable clean energy. A renewable clean energy revolution is taking place around the world and here in Queensland we are ready to embrace that renewable clean revolution. The Palaszczuk government is leading Australia's journey to cleaner, cheaper, renewable, sustainable energy with our Jobs and Energy Plan. Those opposite when in government dragged Queensland back into the Dark Ages by winding back the state's climate change and renewable program plus shedding a third of jobs in renewable energy, at the time about 1,300 jobs. Last night the member for Condamine was very sceptical of the ambitious plans that Labor has for pumped hydro, and he is not the only one. The member for Mirani is having a field day rallying the troops and he is in competition with Michelle Landry to see who is the most scathing. On the list of naysayers—it goes on—there is Peter Dutton and Andrew Willcox. They were very quick out of the blocks knocking the Pioneer-Burdekin pumped hydro project. This is a project that will produce five gigawatts of electricity, enough to power half of Queensland. I saw a tweet this morning that reminded me of the collective outrage from those opposite: being wrong the loudest does not make you righter.

The current Leader of the Opposition has announced a debt reduction plan and Queenslanders should be afraid—very afraid—that he is going to cut these renewable energy plans. He has form in this area from the Newman days. It is time to be honest with regional Queenslanders: will you be scrapping our Jobs and Energy Plan that will create 100,000 new jobs by 2024, most of them in regional Queensland? These jobs will come from direct construction of renewable energy to supply chains and economic growth in regional cities and towns. Under the new Jobs and Energy Plan, the Buy Queensland umbrella preference will be given to businesses in regional Queensland like my area to get studies done so that we can move this project forward. In the coming months tenders for a range of services that local suppliers can provide will be released—everything from hydro modelling, shallow drilling, earthworks, ecological and biodiversity studies and cultural heritage assessments right through to the provision of catering, printing services, safety equipment and work wear. This really is a nation-building project.