



Speech By  
**Lance McCallum**


**MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA**

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Record of Proceedings, 16 August 2022

## **MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

### **Renewable Energy**

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (2.52 pm): We are laying down a job-creating pathway for Queensland homes and businesses to shine, thanks to our abundant, clean, cheap power. I cannot help but make a remark after the member for Gympie's contribution, because his community will benefit from the job-creating pathway we are laying down in the energy system. Infrastructure for pumped hydro storage out at Borumba is being investigated. You are welcome, member for Gympie. Thanks to the Palaszczuk government there will likely be thousands of jobs associated with clean, cheap power in Gympie. We are using more and more renewable energy, which is keeping strong downward pressure on power prices. It is laying a foundation for economic growth that has already delivered over 8,000 jobs in construction alone and over \$10 billion in investment directly in the energy sector while enabling jobs and investment across many others.

We now have 50 large-scale renewable projects operating, under construction or financially committed since the election of the Palaszczuk government in 2015. This represents over 5.7 megawatts of clean energy and over 13.8 million tonnes of avoided emissions each year. Combined with rooftop solar, the state has over 7.6 megawatts of renewable energy capacity and 21.4 per cent of electricity used in Queensland is produced from renewables.

We are growing a local manufacturing sector using Queensland know-how to construct and supply components alongside and in the renewables supply chain, and we are developing a growing supply chain for renewable hydrogen. Of course, all of this is underpinned by high levels of content from Queensland small businesses.

We are supporting our regions with more good, highly skilled jobs and services. Increasingly, local workers have strong career pathways in renewables, manufacturing, hydrogen, transport and new economy resources. Our renewable energy zones are driving investment and supporting good local jobs. Only last week we fast-tracked the biggest renewable energy zone in Australia to help power 700,000 Queensland homes and create hundreds of local jobs in the Southern Downs. Connecting the massive wind farm project to the national grid will unlock around \$2 billion worth of investment while boosting reliability across three east Australian states with clean Queensland-made energy. It means that more Queenslanders will have increased access to clean and affordable energy proudly produced in Queensland and owned by Queenslanders. This is reducing our reliance on overseas oil and gas and increasing our energy independence.

A record number of households have been generating their electricity from solar panels and using the energy stored in batteries to power their electric cars and appliances. Households are saving more money with lower power bills, giving them the ability to enjoy more of the great lifestyle Queensland has to offer. Through continued public ownership, Queenslanders proudly own state-of-the-art generation power networks, increasing energy storage and increasing hydrogen assets that are not only producing clean, cheap power into homes and businesses but also putting money back into the pockets of

Queenslanders. This is going to continue from the 31st of this month, when our next cost-of-living rebate is applied to power bills across the state. Of course, this is not the first rebate we have been able to provide. Over the past four years, Queenslanders have been paid \$575 because they kept their electricity networks in their own hands. This includes our local Swanbank E power station.

We have also led the way nationally. I acknowledge the work of the member for Springwood, the energy minister. Queensland has led from the front to have emissions reductions included in the national energy objectives of the NEM. This is a huge step forward. More has already been achieved under a federal Labor government than was achieved under nine years of the LNP government.

*(Time expired)*