




Speech By
Michael Hart

MEMBER FOR BURLEIGH

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ADJOURNMENT

Energy and Jobs Plan

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (8.36 pm): We heard a number of speeches today about the government's energy plan. I want to bring some inconvenient facts to the argument instead of the smoke and mirrors that the government puts forward. For 30 or 40 years, we had coal-fired power stations pumping out electricity at \$35 a megawatt—years and years. What has changed is we had the federal Labor Party bring in a carbon tax and then we had renewable energy hit the marketplace. As we all know, it is volatile. When the sun does not shine, when the wind does not blow, none of this stuff actually happens. Surprisingly, the government have now realised that without firming supply, without batteries or pumped hydro or something like that, their targets cannot work.

The government have a number of problems in building these pumped hydro schemes that they are talking about. They will have to build dams to make that happen, and they do not have a really good history of building dams. We are talking 70 per cent renewable energy by 2032, and then 80 per cent by 2035. To get to that, they are going to have to build these dams within 10 years. The Labor Party has a lousy history with building dams. We know how long it will take them to build dams. Even if they were serious about it, they cannot achieve this.

We have heard there is \$7 billion to \$10 billion worth of private enterprise that has put renewable energy into the Queensland marketplace. We know it is not the government; it has been private enterprise. Where do they think that private enterprise will recover that money from? They are recovering it from electricity prices. That is why we have seen the spike in electricity prices. That is why the federal Labor government are—

Government members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Members to my right. Order!

Mr HART: Electricity prices are going to jump by 56 per cent in the next couple of years. This government thinks they can invest \$62 billion into the system that uses a cost recovery system.

We all know they release a regulated asset base of what they spend—\$62 billion. What is that going to do to the price of electricity? I will tell honourable members what it will do. It will send it through the roof. Watch this space; people's electricity bills will blow out so this government can go down its ideological way without any common sense and rush to renewable energy.

I support a transition to renewable energy—do not get me wrong—but it has to be done on an economic and engineering basis, and this government does not have one.