



Speech By  
**Shane King**


**MEMBER FOR KURWONGBAH**

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**PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT**

**Energy and Jobs Plan**

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (2.15 pm): It was an historic and welcome moment for Queensland recently when the Premier announced our bold new Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan. Ambitious and achievable, this plan includes a renewable target of 70 per cent by 2032, just 10 years time; and the beginnings of the Queensland SuperGrid to connect up renewable energy sources across the state, unlocking new storage opportunities and increasing capacity. Members may not realise, but I was an electrician in the industry, and I cannot tell you how excited I am by the initiatives in this plan. I think this speech will need a sequel, because I could talk for a while on this subject. Today I will just talk about pumped hydro and the conversion of our coal-fired power stations into clean energy hubs.

We should all know that we have had the Wivenhoe pumped hydro power station as part of our state owned generation mix for decades. I know it well. In a previous life I was a site facilitator/supervisor for the rebuild of Mt England switchyard, which connects Wivenhoe to the grid. Wivenhoe, from memory, has a generation capacity of about 500 megawatts and can run for up to 10 hours on the current water supply from Splyard Creek. Wivenhoe pumped hydro station was critical in stabilising the network when the coal-fired unit at Callide failed recently. With two more of these pumped hydro stations, which dwarf Wivenhoe in capacity, coming online—like big batteries that can provide generation when the sun is not shining and the wind is not blowing—they will provide a lot of security to the network.

Our existing publicly owned coal-fired generators will transfer over to clean energy hubs, with workers' jobs guaranteed. Whether that means retaining the existing turbines as synchronous condensers, which basically take the place of a large capacitor bank and serve to balance the state's load against inductive loads like electric rail, or repurposing the power stations to different forms of generation, as well as the clean energy hubs providing manufacturing opportunities, there will be plenty of jobs continuing in these stations and in the towns that service them.

Of course, connecting all this will be a major upgrade to our state transmission network to make the whole system more secure. I know that those opposite see system stability and built-in redundancies as gold plating, but I for one like the idea of having backups in our system for when Mother Nature sends her worst along. I can tell you that my old industry is pretty excited about this work coming. The renewable future is electric—pun intended.

It is not just words. With the newly opened renewable energy training centre and a hydrogen training centre coming as well, we are ready to train the tradies to do this work. I am nearly out of time. I just have to say: this is an historic plan. I am so proud to be part of the Palaszczuk Labor government delivering. I would like to thank all the stakeholders. It is awesome.