




Speech By
Stephen Andrew

MEMBER FOR MIRANI

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT

Net Zero Emissions

 **Mr ANDREW** (Mirani—PHON) (2.44 pm): The government has put Queensland on an accelerated course for net zero by 2050. In doing so, it has made statements that are rarely explained or backed by evidence. There is a complete absence of proper cost-benefit analysis of the energy transformation needed to get to net zero—not one that stands up to scrutiny at least.

Mr Molhoek: Bye hospitals. Bye schools.

Mr ANDREW: I take that interjection from the member. The whole of Australia is already feeling the growing cost of net zero policies and investment by the government, yet processes have barely begun. Change on this scale should be subject to broad public debate, not forced onto people by green ideologues and insiders, which is what is happening. Policymakers should be honest and open with the Queensland public about how much all of this will cost them and how much it will radically alter their lifestyles, their finances and their jobs.

For Queensland to have a net zero emission economy by 2050, the following will need to be achieved: transport will have to be completely electrified; industrial and domestic heat will have to become fully electrified; and the electricity sector—generation, transmission and distribution—will have to be greatly expanded in order to cope with the tsunami of demand that it will be hit with.

In terms of electricity alone, the Queensland grid will need to be almost three times bigger by 2050. Every home and building in the state will have to be rewired, as will street distribution and local substations. The mains fuse will have to be upgraded and local substations expanded enormously. The cost of electricity will increase exponentially in order to repay all of these major capital costs over the lifetime of the assets. It is also going to take an extraordinary amount of land to develop renewables up to a capacity where it can match fossil fuels. No matter how many trillions you pour into the problem, land is and always will be a finite resource. The overall land footprint needed for solar farms in Queensland could end up being the size of the state's entire protected area network. The public has no idea what will be involved in terms of land use that will be needed to develop the utility scale renewables structures that will be needed. By the time they realise it, it will be too late to go back.

Solar and the wind farms alone will eliminate farmland and vegetation forests and disrupt natural habitats. Add biofuel to the mix and pretty much all your good land will be gone. However, all this is just a tiny fraction of the costs that will be involved at both state and individual level. Net zero means a complete transformation of this state and country. We are facing 30 years of intense social and economic disruption, greatly diminished living standards and putting the state under a command economy. Governments are not being honest with Australians. Net zero is an idea that you could only believe is possible if you have no idea how the energy economy works and—

(Time expired)