



Speech By  
**Stephen Andrew**


**MEMBER FOR MIRANI**

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## **ADJOURNMENT**

### **Mirani Electorate, Wind Farm**

 **Mr ANDREW** (Mirani—PHON) (7.18 pm): Vast tracts of tropical and subtropical vegetation are being destroyed to make way for giant industrial wind turbines in my electorate. The Clarke Creek wind farm project, which consists of 195 wind turbines, is in the process of being developed over a project area of approximately 76,300 hectares and 11 private lots.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr ANDREW:** I am not taking interjections. Each of the 195 turbines has a rotor consisting of three blades of up to 240 feet in length, with a maximum hub height of 450 feet. The maximum tip height for the blades is 660 feet. According to detailed field surveys, eight species of raptor were seen in the project area, with one of the recorded species listed as endangered, the grey falcon.

Other endangered species identified include the squatter pigeon and the white-throated needletail. Species listed as vulnerable include the greater glider and now koalas. The project will remove up to 1,425 hectares of mapped koala habitat, 15.3 hectares of regulated vegetation and 44.7 hectares of threatened semi-evergreen vine thicket.

Clarke Creek is just one of many wind and solar projects proposed or already under construction in my region, some on significant tracts of unspoilt wilderness or remnant vegetation. Some of the plans to build green energy projects are in forests that predate white settlement, along corridors bordering World Heritage areas and on properties previously targeted for conservation protection. If all current proposals were to be approved, an estimated 13,332 hectares of remnant vegetation will be cleared statewide. Around 90 per cent of that land clearing is in North Queensland.

There are currently 48 large-scale renewable energy projects that have been completed, commenced or slated for Queensland, with some of the largest facilities to be built along the Coral Sea coastline. At Mt Emerald, the Kaban wind farm's project area is 1,300 hectares and includes 129 hectares of threatened species habitat. It is home to greater gliders and magnificent broodfrogs. The wind farm proposed for Chalumbin disturbs an area nine times larger than Kaban. The proposed site is right along the western boundary of World Heritage-protected rainforest. More than 1,100 hectares of vegetation would be cleared for the project. An even bigger wind farm is planned at Upper Burdekin, which stretches 37 kilometres end to end, according to the proposal.

We simply cannot afford to bulldoze endangered species' habitat to build all these habitat-wrecking, industrial-scale renewable projects. Doing so will drive away or kill off all our species and drive our old Indigenous species towards extinction, yet the federal government say they will make sure they will preserve.