




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles
MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Record of Proceedings, 26 May 2022

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Cost-of-Living Rebate; Hydrogen Industry

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure) (10.07 am): The Palaszczuk government understands the pressures that increasing costs are placing on Queensland families. It feels like everything is going up: food, petrol, groceries and bills, things that Queensland families cannot go without. That is why we are delivering Queensland households a \$175 cost-of-living rebate that will make balancing budgets just that little bit easier. This cost-of-living rebate is only possible because we did not sell our electricity assets. Be on the lookout for the \$175 cost-of-living rebate on your energy bill later this year.

Today I would like to announce funding for another great hydrogen project in Queensland. The Palaszczuk government will provide up to \$2 million to the Goondiwindi Regional Council to make its wastewater treatment plant one of Australia's first to produce hydrogen. This innovative approach to kickstarting our local renewable hydrogen economy will see the power generated from a 2.5 megawatt solar plant produce hydrogen from treated wastewater that will be sold to local customers, including agricultural users and heavy industry. Oxygen generated during the production process will go back into aerating wastewater, improving the treatment plant's efficiency.

The integration of wastewater treatment and renewables to create hydrogen will be a model for other councils as the use of renewable hydrogen energy increases. It is an example of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to transition to a clean energy future that promotes innovation and delivers economic growth and highly skilled jobs for Queenslanders. Mayor Lawrence Springborg says, 'This project has the potential to save our ratepayers millions in the replacement cost of the existing aging infrastructure as well as reduce the ongoing operational expenses.'

Recently I was in Gladstone to announce that leading Australian land and marine tourism transport operator, SeaLink, would build a hydrogen ferry here in Brisbane to transport workers to and from Curtis Island. Just before that, I was in Emerald with Emerald Coaches. Their hydrogen fuel cell electric buses will service school routes and mine sites and be capable of travelling hundreds of kilometres a day on a single tank of locally produced green hydrogen. I look forward to the rollout of even more successful applicants under the Palaszczuk government's Hydrogen Industry Development Fund in the near future.