




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Record of Proceedings, 1 September 2022

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Renewable Energy

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure) (10.19 am): This government is committed to a clean energy future that promotes innovation while delivering economic growth and highly skilled jobs for Queenslanders now and for generations to come. We are building a stronger, cleaner future by capitalising on our natural resources and talented and dedicated workforce. We have an abundance of sun to draw on for solar energy and we are rich in new economy mineral deposits such as vanadium and cobalt that are essential building blocks for renewable energy generation and storage, and of course we have fantastic conditions for wind farms.

Recently, the State Planner approved the \$2.6 billion Mount James Wind Farm near Hughenden. When completed, it is planned to be one of the largest in Australia, capable of generating up to a gigawatt of power, enough to cater for 640,000 homes per year. This massive wind farm will have up to 166 turbines and will create 300 jobs during construction. While at this point there are no further approvals required from the state, the project is now subject to EPBC approval from the Commonwealth.

This is exactly the type of project that will continue to propel Queensland towards becoming a renewable energy powerhouse. We are seeing significant investment in renewable projects across the state because companies are attracted to Queensland. They are attracted here because of our natural resources. They are attracted here because of our highly skilled workforce across regional centres. They are attracted here because of our infrastructure, ports and industrial land, and they are attracted here because of our established trade partnerships.

This government has been extremely proactive in facilitating investment, developing local industry content and supporting supply chains in solar, wind, batteries, hydrogen and bioenergy initiatives. We are investing in the development of green hydrogen and other major green energy projects throughout Queensland including Gladstone, Townsville, Maryborough, Cairns and the south-east. By supporting the development of locally made renewable fuel, energy and electricity, the Queensland government is providing certainty to manufacturers to set up, expand and, importantly, decarbonise their operations here. The government is continuing to position Queensland as the place to invest in, manufacture and export renewable energy and in doing so ensuring jobs, greater livability and a cleaner future for generations of Queenslanders to come.